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General Assembly
Fiftieth Session

Official Records

78th plenary meeting
Monday, 4 December 1995, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Diogo Freitas do Amaral ..... (Portugal)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 17 *(continued)*

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(f) Appointment of members of the Committee on Conferences

Note by the Secretary-General (A/50/106)

The President: Members will recall that at the 68th plenary meeting, on 21 November 1995, I informed the Assembly that after consultations with the Chairmen of the regional groups, I had appointed Austria, Jamaica, Jordan, Morocco and the United States of America as members of the Committee on Conferences for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1996.

However, one seat from among the African States and one seat from among the Asian States still remained vacant.

Following further consultations with the Chairmen of the Groups of African and Asian States, I have appointed Kenya and Nepal as members of the Committee on Conferences for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 1996.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of these appointments?

It was so decided.

The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (f) of agenda item 17.

Reports of the Fifth Committee

The President: The General Assembly will now consider the reports of the Fifth Committee on agenda items 128 and 133.

If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the reports of the Fifth Committee that are before it today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote.

The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Fifth Committee have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records.

May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that:

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote

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only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee".

May I remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendations contained in the reports of the Fifth Committee, I should like to advise representatives that we shall take decisions in the same manner as in the Fifth Committee.

Agenda item 128

Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters

Report of the Fifth Committee (A/50/796)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of its report (A/50/796).

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 128.

Agenda item 133 *(continued)*

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II) (A/50/705/Add.1)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 6 of part II of its report.

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote.

May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 133.

Agenda item 24

Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/50/490, A/50/520)

Draft resolution (A/50/L.40)

The President: I call on the representative of Niger.

Mr. Seydou (Niger) *(interpretation from French)*: Mr. President, I thank you for calling on me to speak on this agenda item, which is of major importance to my delegation.

But I should like first of all to extend my delegation's congratulations to the Secretary-General and to his team, particularly the Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries, on the documentation they have provided and the efforts they have constantly exerted within the framework of the process of implementing the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

Some may wonder why this item has once again been included in the agenda of this Assembly session when the Economic and Social Council devoted its high-level segment on 4 and 5 July 1995, during its substantive session in Geneva, to the development of Africa, including the implementation of the New Agenda. There are a number of reasons for this, the most important of which, in our opinion, is to enable us to briefly review the progress achieved in the implementation of this New Agenda for the Development of Africa.

The first reason, in the Niger delegation's view, stems from resolution 48/214 adopted in December 1993. In that resolution, the Secretary-General was asked to

undertake a study on financial intermediation systems and practices in African countries, and to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session a report on that study.

The study was necessary because of the drop in resource flows, in particular in official development assistance for the African continent, and because of the need to improve and strengthen national structures by financial-reform measures and the international community's support.

In the study submitted to us in document A/50/490, the Secretary-General has undertaken an in-depth analysis of the state of financial systems and practices in African countries. The study shows that the African financial systems are rudimentary, with few participants and transactions. But while there has not been very much development of the modern financial system, the traditional informal system is very important because it serves as an intermediary for a large volume of transactions. The advantage of this informal system is that it is particularly effective in mobilizing savings and in meeting the needs of micro-enterprises.

In the Secretary-General's report, it is recommended that this informal sector be preserved and encouraged while at the same time measures are taken to mitigate its shortcomings by developing and strengthening the modern system. Niger shares this idea and hopes that the General Assembly will adopt this recommendation.

The second reason is to be found in resolution 49/142. It is true that the resolution was adopted rather hastily last year, but it was the result of long and difficult negotiations in which my country participated — negotiations that were led by Minister Amara Essy in his capacity as President of the General Assembly. We thank Minister Amara Essy for all the efforts he exerted in those negotiations.

The difficulty of the negotiations obliged us to abandon the idea of a diversification fund and to replace it with a special contribution within the African Development Bank to enable small and medium-sized enterprises to present projects that are viable and meet the required criteria for being financed. While recognizing that the African Development Bank is experiencing difficult times and that the seventh replenishment has not yet been concluded, we must note that no initiative has been taken by the donor countries to make that special contribution.

Niger feels that in the context of following up the New Agenda for the Development of Africa, the States participating in the Development Fund of the African Development Bank that are also Members of this Assembly must ensure that resources are set aside for this important activity, which is one of the priorities of the New Agenda and which might enable Africa to be less dependent on external sources, but also to move in the direction traced out by the new World Trade Organization.

The Secretary-General has already established the necessary contacts in the African Development Bank. The resolution exists. So the donor countries should act before next year, because, as we all know, in keeping with resolution 46/151, 1996 will be the year for the mid-term review of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

The third reason for the General Assembly's consideration of this agenda item can be found in the results of this year's high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council devoted to African development, including the implementation of the New Agenda for the 1990s. That in-depth consideration, with the participation of high-level representatives of African States and heads of international financial institutions, had been expected to lead to concrete proposals and decisions on the vital sectors of the continent requiring urgent assistance. We note, however, that the discussions did not lead to anything but general remarks. Niger had hoped that the high-level segment would take courageous decisions to set Africa on the road to sustainable development.

Some have said that Africa is inseparable from the rest of the world and that the world needs Africa just as much as Africa needs it. It is undeniable that Africa needs the rest of the world, but my delegation is increasingly led to ask whether the world really needs Africa.

The fourth reason for our consideration of agenda item 24 is the submission by the Secretary-General of the summary of the meetings of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development. My delegation is pleased to note that the high-level Panel is attempting, on the initiative of the Secretary-General, to establish a general consensus on the major African problems. This is an important effort, and one we hope will continue, because there are so many new initiatives on the various forms of development. The high-level Panel — despite, or because of, its diversity — has managed to achieve such a consensus, which can only benefit Africa and which, above all, will help us focus on the most

important work to be done to get Africa out its current impasse. I am therefore pleased to congratulate the high-level Panel and thank it for its outstanding work.

The last reason is that this fiftieth session is an opportunity to begin to think about and organize for the mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa, to be held at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly. Indeed, under the provisions of paragraph 44 of resolution 46/151, the General Assembly must take the necessary measures to establish a special committee for the preparation of this mid-term review. The draft resolution we are proposing for adoption by consensus asks that this committee be established and that its organizational session be held as soon as possible so that it can consider and adopt the necessary practical arrangements for its work.

Niger welcomes the fact that a line of credit has been established in the United Nations budget to finance the activities envisaged to coordinate the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development and to help the General Assembly in its 1996 mid-term review and assessment process. Niger appreciates the efforts made in this respect, but it is concerned that the resources allocated to that line of credit are insufficient.

My delegation welcomes the fact that paragraph 20 of resolution 46/151 places special emphasis on South-South cooperation. This is an important aspect that we must not overlook. We must bear in mind that the New Agenda is not a North-South issue; it is a programme that concerns all States.

Niger also welcomes the efforts already made by certain countries in assisting Africa and encourages the southern countries that have been hesitant to do so to give Africa the benefit of their development know-how and their financial support.

Niger also encourages the developed countries to lend their support to Africa in the framework of the implementation of North-South cooperation.

I should like to conclude by addressing these last few remarks to the international community. First, we must encourage and strengthen savings mechanisms in Africa. Secondly, we must ensure that small businessmen and small-scale producers become involved in the diversification of the African economy. Finally, Niger appeals to all interested development partners of Africa to help our continent finally assume its full role on the international stage.

Mr. Laclaustra (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, adopted by the General Assembly in 1991, provides an appropriate framework for both national action and action by the United Nations system aimed at facilitating the development of Africa in the economic, social and environmental spheres, which must continue to be a principal objective of the United Nations system.

The New Agenda for Africa reflects the commitment of the African countries and of the international community to develop cooperation leading to the promotion of sustainable development, through the implementation of reforms aimed at the establishment of participatory political systems and market economies.

The impact of the Agenda can be clearly seen in the priority given to Africa in the programmes of action of and the follow-up meetings to the major United Nations conferences, as well as in other new international instruments. This priority should be reflected in particular in the future Agenda for Development. In the same spirit, the recommendations of the Agenda for Development should be taken into account in the implementation of the New Agenda for Africa.

The mid-term review of the New Agenda for Africa is scheduled to take place next year. It will provide an opportunity to assess the Agenda's results and, if necessary, adjust the approach of the United Nations system to Africa.

While some developing African countries and regions have undoubtedly benefited from the economic take-off of the last decade and applied positive structural adjustment policies, the results of Africa's socio-economic development during this last period — in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, where a large number of the least developed countries are concentrated — have been universally acknowledged as disappointing.

Of course, some positive developments have taken place, among which we wish to highlight the new situation that has arisen in South Africa since the end of apartheid, the processes of reconciliation in Angola and

of democratization in Mozambique, the initial establishment of regional integration and cooperation mechanisms, the success of some emergency operations — such as the actions to combat famine after the prolonged drought in Southern Africa — and, finally, the reduction of budget deficits in terms of percentages of gross national product. Other noteworthy developments include the recognition of Africa as a priority in the United Nations Convention to combat desertification and drought, the price increase of most commodities and the international agreement to increase access to international markets for developing countries, taking into account the specific needs of the least developed countries.

Nevertheless, African countries must make efforts to take advantage of these opportunities. Africa continues to experience certain ongoing problems, especially civil and political conflicts, which often limit its development possibilities. These conflicts have given rise to emergency situations requiring more and more emergency assistance, along with the attendant human tragedies and flows of refugees and marginalized persons. International aid is increasingly marked for these purposes. In this respect, the United Nations has made a fundamental contribution through its peace-keeping activities. The member States of the European Union have fully supported the efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to develop conflict-prevention and conflict-management measures.

Although social indicators have improved somewhat, problems in Africa persist, owing, *inter alia*, to the unsustainable growth of its population. All this is bringing about accelerated urbanization and further jeopardizing Africa's food security. As these problems worsen, gender inequalities are exacerbated. The effective implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing conferences remains crucial.

In the economic field, in spite of the encouraging economic policies carried out by several African countries, most indicators are still worrisome. We welcome the progress made in applying appropriate structural-adjustment policies. Africa's share of world trade is less than 1 per cent. Its growth rate remains modest, and agricultural production does not meet the food requirements of a growing population.

There is no need to reiterate that the resolution of Africa's multiple crises and the maintenance of peace are primarily the responsibility of the Africans themselves. The European Union will continue to support their efforts.

A *sine qua non* for the sustainable development of African countries is greater political stability, manifested in sound State structures, the establishment of democratic systems, transparency and accountability in public affairs and the promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Any development policy should focus on sustainable development with an emphasis on the human being. All these issues are generally understood as part of what is called transparent and accountable governance. This trend was made evident in the meeting of the Global Coalition for Africa, held from 27 October to 2 November 1995 in Maastricht, where Heads of State and Ministers of African countries discussed the future of Africa with ordinary citizens, and it has been reaffirmed in the recent cycle of major international conferences, from Rio to Beijing. We also note the progress made by some African countries towards the strengthening of women's role in all sectors of society. All these issues are generally considered to be part of what is called good governance.

The effective implementation of the recommendations adopted in the Copenhagen Programme of Action, such as the elaboration of the 20/20 initiative by developed and developing countries, should contribute to a gradual reduction of poverty.

It is also necessary to establish priorities that take into account the specific capacities and needs of each country and to implement strategies to respond to such priorities. These priorities should be focused on economic growth, as well as on fundamental social sectors, such as health, universal education, nutrition and the creation of employment opportunities. Mutual commitments should be made between interested donor countries and African countries to devote, respectively, about 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of national budgets to basic social programmes.

Africa is undoubtedly the continent with the most underutilized human potential. The strengthening of human and institutional capacities is therefore essential.

Africa in particular would benefit from the implementation of the major international Conventions on climate change, biological diversity and desertification.

Only an integrated approach will make it possible to strengthen national capacities, gradually reduce poverty and integrate Africa into an international economy characterized by globalization and interdependence.

Since the 1980s more than 30 African countries have been implementing structural-adjustment programmes and reforms. We are convinced that such measures will continue to benefit Africa in the long term. We believe that the reforms should be continued and expanded and that they should be accompanied by appropriate social policies.

One of the most salient trends in the world economy is the increase in flows of private capital, of which Africa has received only a tiny share. In order for Africa to benefit from these flows, it is essential to implement appropriate monetary and fiscal policies, including an open framework for investments, and to promote the mobilization of domestic resources. Other measures could include agreements for the protection of investments and the enhancement of national legislation to that end.

African economies are often dependent on commodity exports. Efforts to diversify those economies are necessary, and African countries should take steps towards that goal. International support for such efforts by the poorest countries should be carried out within the framework of existing institutions, such as the United Nations Common Fund for Commodities and the African Development Fund of the African Development Bank.

Efforts should also be made to achieve greater integration of African economies at the regional and international levels, in order to open market systems, create a favourable environment for the private sector and develop efficient cooperation between the public and private sectors. In this context, the first steps towards regional integration were taken with the establishment of the African Economic Community in 1991 and the strengthening and revitalization of subregional structures. This process should be enhanced and actively supported by the international community. The reinforcement of South-South cooperation, which is important for all developing regions, is particularly so for Africa.

International solidarity is also essential for Africa's development, as is international support for the mobilization of national resources by the African countries. In fact, both in absolute and per capita terms, the portion of international aid granted to Africa during the 1980s and 1990s has remained the largest in the developing world.

The activities of multilateral aid organizations are of particular importance for Africa's development. United Nations funds and programmes should be encouraged to pay special attention to the low-income and least developed countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 1993 the total official development assistance provided by the European Union to sub-Saharan Africa, including both bilateral official development assistance and multilateral aid administered by the Commission, exceeded $10 billion. Since 1975 the main framework for cooperation between the European Union and the African countries has been provided by the Lomé Convention, under which financing has substantially increased.

The Lomé Convention also guarantees the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries free access to the European Union in respect of all industrial and many agricultural products. None the less, the percentage of these countries' share of trade with the European Union has decreased by more than half, to less than 4 per cent, since the first Lomé Convention was negotiated. This underlines the fact that the key to improving the access of African products to the world markets is to improve the competitiveness of their economies. This will require, above all, action by the African countries themselves. At the same time, a concerted effort should be made by all actors in the international community to support Africa in its efforts to improve the competitiveness of its trading sector so that it can fully benefit from the new trading opportunities opened up by the conclusion of the Uruguay Round agreements. The European Union is ready to contribute to this common effort, in particular by giving priority within the Lomé framework to the provision of technical assistance for trade development.

In this respect, the European Union reaffirms its commitment to reach as soon as possible the official-development-assistance target of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product, to strive to reach 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross domestic product for the least developed countries, the majority of which are in Africa, and, in the case of those donors which have already reached the figure of 0.15 per cent, to undertake to reach 0.20 per cent of the gross domestic product for the least developed countries by the year 2000.

Furthermore, we believe that such aid should be focused primarily on the poorest countries and on the poorest sectors of society. These priorities should also be taken into account in mobilizing resources to carry out these commitments and in meeting the quantitative and qualitative objectives agreed upon during the recent cycle of international conferences.

We believe that the external-debt problem continues to be a major concern for many African countries. We welcome cancellations of debt by bilateral creditors and

the recent measures adopted by the Paris Club, within the framework of the Naples agreement, for the poorest and most heavily indebted countries. The high ratio of multilateral debt to total indebtedness cannot be ignored, especially in the case of the most heavily indebted countries. It must be stressed that some of the lowest-income African countries have benefited from a high volume of loans in concessional terms, which reduces the servicing of this type of debt. The European Union encourages the international financial institutions to develop a broad approach to assisting these countries, through the flexible implementation of existing instruments and of new mechanisms where necessary.

Several member States of the European Union have, on a bilateral basis, cancelled a substantial part of the debt owed, which nevertheless continues to be a heavy burden for most African countries.

We stress the importance of enhanced coordination between donor countries and several international agencies to provide a more coordinated follow-up to the programmes resulting from recent international conferences.

Today's debate should allow us to continue to raise the awareness of all governments and the international community of the need for an effective response to the critical situation in Africa.

The President: I should like to propose that the list of speakers in the debate on this item be closed this morning at 12 noon.

I hear no objection.

It was so decided.

I therefore request those representatives wishing to participate in the debate to add their names as soon as possible.

Mr. Osseyi (Togo) (*interpretation from French*): Four years ago, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/151, which contained the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. In that resolution, the Assembly requested the international community to make a substantial contribution to the recovery and economic development of the African continent.

The major thematic conferences organized under the auspices of the United Nations have also, in the meantime, made the international community more aware that the end of ideological confrontation had brought the world neither the peace nor the development it had the right to hope for.

With regard to Africa in particular, my delegation welcomes the fact that the international community is agreed in recognizing, or has at least become aware, that it is the continent that should have first call, as a matter of utmost urgency, on international solidarity.

Indeed, be it at the Summit in Halifax or during the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council at its most recent substantive session, the industrialized countries have committed themselves to cooperate to encourage competent multilateral institutions to reduce the extreme poverty that has engulfed the continent.

This relates, above all, to attacking on a priority basis the structural factors hindering its development, namely: inadequate infrastructure; weak institutions; poor use of human resources; high vulnerability to natural and climatic disasters; unfavourable fluctuations in the terms of trade; the enormous debt burden; unchecked population growth; and environmental degradation.

My delegation takes this opportunity, as we speak on this agenda item, to thank the United Nations and, through the Organization, its Secretary-General and the specialized agencies and programmes as a whole for all the measures they have constantly undertaken to overcome these difficulties and promote the harmonious development of Africa.

The most significant of those measures comes within the framework of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1991 and revised in 1994. It provides for tangible short- and medium-term projects to promote African development in areas such as food safety, the strengthening of institutions, the development of the private sector, desertification problems and social development.

For my delegation, if United Nations action is to lead to sustainable development with multiplier effects, it should help Africa to strengthen its regional structures and diversify its economy by allowing African products access to foreign markets. For that reason, Togo welcomed the adoption by consensus of General

Assembly resolution 49/142 entitled "United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s". It affirmed the need for further efforts to promote the diversification of African economies. It also urged the international community to increase the financial resource flows to Africa, as these are crucial to regenerate economic growth and sustainable development, and to provide effective support to political reforms and help cushion their adverse social consequences. For those reasons, Togo believed that it provided a way in which the international community could remedy the economic problems African States were facing in their efforts to diversify their economies and primary commodities, and the difficulty they encounter in utilizing the financial mechanisms already existing within international organizations.

In this respect, my country would like to hope that after the respective commitments made in Halifax, Copenhagen and Geneva, aimed in particular at ensuring that the support of the international community could take the form of technical and financial assistance in the preparatory stages of diversification projects, in the framework of the Common Fund for Commodities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the African Development Bank, the delegations that expressed reservations when resolution 49/142 was adopted will take a fresh approach to the draft resolution before us, with an eye to the genuine interests of Africa.

We are all certainly aware that the economic development of Africa is, first and foremost, up to Africans themselves and that development depends to a large extent on the domestic strategies introduced by the States concerned. Substantial efforts in various areas have been made by a number of African countries and by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which has established guidelines for the coherent development of Africa.

For its part, therefore, the Government of Togo joins those who are persuaded that economic decline is not inevitable and that Togo's economy is today an integral part of the world economy. We also believe that a State where the rule of law prevails is necessary and that private investment is indispensable. Thus the political economy of development in Togo is based on free enterprise and developing the qualities of the population. We remain convinced that making use of private investment and creating an environment conducive to the rapid expansion of the private sector are the keystone of any economic and social development.

My Government therefore supports and encourages all national and international private initiatives. Partnership between economic operators in countries of the South and North is highly desirable in this context.

In order to ensure investors' security, Togo has thus acceded to various international conventions and treaties, such as the Treaty establishing the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the Treaty on Harmonizing Business Law in Africa to rationalize the legal environment for enterprises, the Convention of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), and so forth.

Better yet, the establishment in 1990 of an appropriate institutional and juridical framework — the free industrial zone — falls into the same category. What my Government is seeking today, therefore, is the wider mobilization of the national and foreign private sectors in order to expand and perfect this plan, which has already had some success. Similarly, Togo has adopted a new labour code and a new mining code and has undertaken broad tax reform. It has also put in place a revised investment code with many incentives.

As can be seen, Africans have understood the need to take responsibility and to count on themselves above all. However, none of their efforts will be truly productive unless they are made in a favourable international economic environment.

It is thus unfortunate that after the failure of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, and despite the enthusiasm with which the international community greeted the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, it has taken no concrete action to fulfil, even partially, the many commitments it freely agreed to under the New Agenda, which has yet to be truly set in motion, despite the impetus provided by the Secretary-General. The ongoing decrease in official development assistance and the evaporation of private foreign investment suffice to illustrate this bitter conclusion.

My delegation therefore takes this opportunity to express its hope that our Assembly will adopt the draft resolution before it, this time by consensus. In this way it will broadcast its pledge that, at next year's mid-term review of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa, it will not yet again merely note and deplore Africa's extreme poverty, but will finally decide on the

ways and means it will use to really achieve the goals it has set for lifting our continent out of that extreme poverty — that is, to devote 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of the developed countries to official development assistance, and 0.2 per cent to the least developed countries; and to establish conditions that will make it possible to achieve a mean real growth of 4 per cent a year for financial flows into Africa.

At this crossroads in human history, where the world is a mere global village, nothing is more important for us than to live together, to cooperate and to advance side by side. If we do not do that, we run the risk that we shall disappear together, whatever corner of the Earth we may happen to inhabit. Today we again have a chance to forge together a future of peace and well-being in solidarity and dignity, providing we are determined to act.

Mr. Singh (India): The deteriorating economic situation of the African continent has for a considerable period engaged the attention of the world. Indeed, it has been prominent on the agenda of the United Nations since the early 1990s.

India's ties with the nations of the African continent are deep and mutually enriching. For us, this valuable relationship dates back to the years of our independence movement. It was on African soil that the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi, started, as a precursor of our national struggle, his non-violent, passive resistance movement against racial discrimination and exploitation. India struggled side by side with the African nations against colonialism. We felt that our own freedom would be incomplete until all the nations of Africa had been emancipated from foreign rule. We were the first to request the inscription of the issue of apartheid on the agenda of the United Nations, in 1946. Our commitment to the anti-apartheid struggle accompanied political, economic and material support. We rejoiced at the liberation of African nations from colonial rule, the liberation of Namibia and the final end of apartheid in South Africa.

India's support for the subsequent efforts of African countries to achieve economic development is rooted in our commitment to South-South cooperation and to the cause of economic and social development and the eradication of poverty. This support has manifested itself in tangible terms. We share our experiences, resources and capabilities through a high-quality technical and economic cooperation programme. It was at India's initiative that the Africa Fund was established by the Non-Aligned Movement to provide project aid and other technical assistance to the front-line States in various critical areas. By 1992 the Africa Fund had disbursed up to $500 million in such assistance. Our active cooperation with the Southern African Development Community is yet another expression of our desire to partner the development efforts of Africa.

Since the early 1980s, various agencies of the United Nations, including the Economic Commission for Africa, had been sounding dire warnings that the economies of the African region were faced with the prognosis of stagnation or even decline from the already unacceptably low levels of per capita and gross output. They had forecast food shortages, declining health conditions, humanitarian and other emergencies and a rise in the frequency and intensity of epidemics. It was repeatedly emphasized that such a situation could not and should not be allowed to continue. However, what we were faced with instead was the "lost development decade".

Alarmed at the continued adverse performances of African economies, the international community adopted the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. Almost five crucial years have since elapsed.

Unfortunately, Africa's economic recovery still appears remote and elusive. The Secretary-General's report "Mobilization of additional resources for African economic recovery and development: a study on overall resource flows to Africa" (A/48/336), issued in 1993, appropriately drew attention to the need for enhanced private commercial flows and foreign direct investment. There is a consensus that the considerable investment-savings gap must be filled by external resources. The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s recommended a minimum annual level of $30 billion in net official assistance in 1992 if an average annual growth of real gross national product of at least 6 per cent was to be achieved by the year 2000. These figures are far from being achieved.

The report of the Secretary-General issued in the context of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council this year reveals once again that the economic performance of the African region was sluggish in 1994. There are loud warning bells that the African continent will confront enormous perils and challenges in the years ahead. The ecological degradation that is constraining the long-term productive capacity of Africa's farmlands has to be reversed. Food-grains production has to be stepped up from the present growth rate of

approximately 1 per cent per annum to at least 3 to 5 per cent per annum. This is necessary for the nutritional requirements of a growing population to be met. We know it can be done. We did it in India through the "green revolution" initiated in the late 1960s. Civic infrastructure has to be dramatically enhanced if the current decline in many of the social development indicators, particularly in the fields of health, education and employment, is to be reversed.

The overwhelming dependence on the production and export of a few primary commodities has to be reduced through commodity diversification. The availability of technical and managerial personnel, trained in the needs of modern industry and possessed of the required skills and specializations, has to be enhanced.

It is within this framework that India has sought to participate in the economic endeavour in Africa. Under India's Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), we have interacted with many countries in Africa through technical assistance — executing projects, extending training facilities, deputing experts, conducting feasibility studies, providing consultants and organizing study visits. More than 20,000 nominees from foreign countries — most of them from Africa — have been trained in India under this Programme.

Among the projects currently in hand are the establishment of a remote sensing centre in Nigeria and a vocational training programme centre in Senegal, and several schemes in Mauritius. In addition, study visits to identify fresh projects in various other countries have recently been undertaken. We have offered training facilities in a wide range of fields, such as banking, financial management, hydrology and water resource management, urban development, mass communications, fisheries, electronics, satellite image processing, packaging, food processing, small industries, crop research, sericulture, bio-gas technology, and manpower planning and training. There are further programmes of South-South cooperation in the area of new and renewable energy resources, biotechnology, gene banks, and so on, which India is coordinating on behalf of fellow developing countries.

Africa is the principal beneficiary of these programmes, and in 1994-1995 roughly 60 per cent of the technical assistance rendered by India under ITEC went to countries of the African continent.

There is little doubt that Africa will require considerable support from the international community in order to achieve its basic development goals. Economic reforms and structural adjustment programmes must be dovetailed with international support for measures aimed at protecting the environment, encouraging agricultural and rural development, achieving food security, promoting investment and integrating population trends with development. African economies will also need catalytic support from external variables, in terms of additional resource flows, better terms of trade for commodities, diversification of production and trade, and enhanced foreign direct investment. Debt reduction and rescheduling measures are also an inalienable part of this strategy.

We are convinced that a modern African economy will be built. It will be built by harnessing the resilience and inner strength of Africa. The combined efforts and the pooled expertise of Governments, local authorities, voluntary agencies and the international community will be required to facilitate this task. Ultimately, achievements are durable only to the extent to which they develop and draw upon the inherent talents of beneficiaries. India has sought to participate in the development of Africa — *inter alia* by supporting and strengthening the resource pool of the required skills. We are willing to make such further contributions as are required of us in this endeavour.

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate that consensus on the urgency of programmes for the economic development of Africa already exists. We have the United Nations New Agenda. The Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade also encompass the countries in the African region. The Declaration adopted at the World Summit for Social Development includes a specific commitment concerning the economic, social and human resource development of Africa. Work is currently under way on "An Agenda for Development". What is lacking, therefore, is not a vision or a set of plans and programmes, but a ready will to translate these into reality.

I urge that the focus of our discussions and attention should therefore be on specific steps towards fulfilling our commitments and our responsibility to our partners in Africa.

Mr. Moubarak (Lebanon), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Mr. Mwakawago (United Republic of Tanzania): At the outset, my delegation would like to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We fully support the views expressed in that statement. Let me also take this opportunity to commend the Secretary-General for his informative and useful reports on this agenda item.

The Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s identifies some factors that need to be addressed and measures, both domestic and international, that need to be taken in order to relaunch the African economies into growth on an urgent basis. As most of the representatives who have already spoken adequately addressed the major costacles to Africa's development, my delegation, to save time, will confine its comments to the impact of economic reform, diversification of the African economies and the promotion of financial intermediation in Africa.

In spite of the commitments made by the international community through the adoption of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the overall socio-economic situation in most African countries has continued to deteriorate. In contrast, most African countries have honoured their commitment by implementing structural adjustment programmes involving socio-economic reform measu s. My own country — Tanzania — has focused reforms on the following sectors: agriculture, industry, finance, parastatals, the civil service, trade, planning and budgeting, and the private sector.

The objective of these reforms is the removal of structural rigidities in order to correct the existing macroeconomic imbalances and lay the foundation for sustained economic growth. In tandem with socio-economic reforms, Tanzania has undertaken major political reforms and has just gone through the exercise of multi-party elections.

The impact of undertaking these measures to reform our economies has been debated in many forums. The debate, which is still going on, reveals both positive and negative effects. However, the success of the reforms will depend to a large extent on the international community's support for the creation of the necessary internal capacity, with an appropriate economic base, as well as on a supportive external environment in terms of favourable commodity prices, market access and debt relief.

Tanzania, like many other African countries, has a commodity-based economy that is dependent on a few primary commodities. With such an economic system, the need for diversification cannot be overemphasized. If that long-term objective is to be achieved, the international community will have to provide assistance, particularly in the areas of financing projects on commodity diversification and of capacity-building. In this regard, my delegation calls upon the international community to implement resolution 49/142 expeditiously.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to underscore the fact that Africa is the least developed of the continents. As we move towards the next millennium there must be concerted efforts by the international community to help Africa to take the giant leap necessary for it to be part of the development process as set forth in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

Mr. Lamamra (Algeria) (*interpretation from French*): Allow me first to express my delegation's special interest in this debate and its appreciation for the reports prepared by the Secretariat, which provide us with information and very useful analysis that will assist us in our discussions of this important agenda item.

I should also like to express our appreciation to the non-African delegations that have joined us in emphasizing the need for an effective partnership to enable Africa to realize all its potential in order to benefit its people as well as the international community as a whole.

Despite the wealth of its soil and subsoil, the selflessness and persistence of its human resources and its historic links with and geographical proximity to one of the world's largest economic communities, Africa, in this era of greater growth and well-being at the world level, is the only region where social and economic conditions are in a chronic state of decline. This, obviously, is a situation that is both an economic aberration and an unacceptable flouting of the aspirations of millions of citizens to a decent life and a less uncertain future.

Yet it must be recognized that the African countries themselves, despite their modest means, have made considerable efforts to break out of this deadlock. The African continent is the one in which the largest number

of structural adjustment programmes have been set up. The vast majority of African countries are implementing policies of macroeconomic stabilization and deficit reduction, which have often led to an increase in social tensions. The easing of foreign-trade restrictions is now a reality at the continental level, and foreign investments enjoy a legislative and regulatory environment that has never been more favourable. Lastly, regional and subregional integration has been significantly stimulated by the adaptation of existing institutional entities and by enhancing their ability to take action, by the creation of new subregional groups for cooperation and by launching the initial phases of the African Economic Community.

It should be remembered that this progress has been made in an internal and external economic context that has been generally unfavourable, because of the continuing constraints that are impeding any process of stable and sustained development. Indeed, is it realistic to hope for any conclusive results so long as there is no overall solution to the continent's external debt, which is continuing to increase, its servicing weighing heavily on the dwindling resources of most African countries? However welcome they may be, the debt-easing measures decided on by the Group of 7 at its Naples Summit and by the Paris Club remain temporary, limited and insufficient to break the African countries' vicious circle of external indebtedness.

And is it realistic to envisage any more decisive accomplishments when the prices of raw commodities, which represent more than 90 per cent of African exports, continue to be weak and when the decline in the terms of trade has created an insupportable drain on the financial resources African countries derive from them? In this connection, it is possible to ignore the sombre prospects of the post-Uruguay Round, which indicate that the African countries will be among those suffering most from the dismantling of the preference system and the rising price of foodstuffs?

Finally, should we be surprised by such actions when we note that Africa is the only region that has not benefited from the recent transfers of financial resources to developing countries? This resource insufficiency, linked to the diversion of private capital elsewhere, is related to a reduction in real terms in official development assistance and to the effects of the underlying strategies of structural adjustment programmes, which, by favouring exports over imports, are only intended to re-establish the ability of debtor African countries to repay.

Thus the remarkable efforts of the African countries are bound to have limited results if they are not accompanied by considerable support, in many forms, from the international community.

The purpose of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa is to ensure coordination between the efforts being made at the national and regional levels in Africa and meaningful support by the international community. Enshrining a doctrine and vision of the African continent's economic recovery through a collective action qualitatively different from traditional approaches conceived in terms of assistance or aid funds on which the donors would see no return, the Agenda retains today, four years after its adoption and despite the scant progress made in its implementation, its relevance and consistency.

First, the Agenda's relevance is shown by its timely identification of the factors impeding African development: an external debt whose burden weighs more heavily than ever on the income of African countries; a supply of external resources that is clearly insufficient to meet the enormous financing requirements; excessive dependence on a limited number of natural resources whose export prices are continuing to decline; and, lastly, a degree of regional integration below the minimum required to create markets capable of ensuring collective autonomy on a continental scale.

The Agenda is consistent because, learning from the failure of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 198[illegible] 1990, it was designed as an operational whole in which the respective responsibilities and commitments of Africa and the international community were clearly spelled out in what has rightly been called a partnership contract intended to lay the groundwork for lasting African economic and social recovery before the end of the present decade.

The African countries, by sparing no effort, often in difficult conditions, to fulfil their commitments, have demonstrated their desire to be credible partners and active participants in the enormous task of their continent's recovery. They therefore have a right to expect from the international community, and especially from the developed countries, an equal determination to fulfil the partnership contract, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa.

To achieve this, Africa's partners must transcend their previous ideas about cooperation with the continent and must overcome the accompanying "donor fatigue", and must count on Africa's natural determination to develop a dynamic of progress by which it will gain its proper place in the vast movement of international cooperation that is beneficial for all. We are pleased to note that many have decided to do this, as evidenced by the multilateral meetings held in recent years on the central theme of the development of Africa. The Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in October 1993, and the Asia-Africa forum held at Jakarta in 1994, enable us to assess the vast potential for cooperation and fruitful exchange of experience between the two continents. And the third Africa-Americas summit, held at Dakar in 1995, highlighted the fresh look at Africa by investors from the Americas, and signalled the ways to achieve mutually beneficial cooperation between the two sides of the Atlantic. As Africa's major partner, the European Union, now 15 members strong, can more than ever act as a catalyst here; this is a natural role given the commonality of interests of Africa and Europe, which are linked by history and geography, bolstered by the enormous, diverse network of bonds that enrich their relations in the widest variety of areas.

In its concerted and ongoing effort to return Africa to the sphere of development and enable it to recover and grow, the United Nations has been a significant catalyst. At its thirteenth special session, held in May and June 1986, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. By declaring Africa to be one of the five priorities for the United Nations in the 1990s, the General Assembly underscored the need to devise new intergovernmental machinery to provide stronger encouragement for international support for the continent.

In recent years, with the personal encouragement of the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Organization has done good work to keep the question of African development among the priority concerns of the international community, and there have been many efforts at the institutional level to further encourage and coordinate the activities of United Nations institutions towards the implementation of the New Agenda. And far from limiting itself to the United Nations system, the Organization has expanded its efforts to make decision makers in multilateral institutions more aware of the need to contribute to the development of Africa.

Just as the General Assembly is now considering the New Agenda for the third time, the Economic and Social Council devoted the high-level segment of its 1995 substantive session to Africa. The segment, in which a number of Government ministers participated, make it possible to make a fresh diagnosis of the ills that are hampering the development of Africa and to define a strategy to overcome the crisis, the elements of which had already been identified in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa: addressing the question of debt through a dynamic, comprehensive approach; substantially increasing external financial resources; enhancing human and institutional capacity; diversifying exports; providing assistance to enable African countries to absorb the shocks of the start of new multilateral trade machinery resulting from the Uruguay Round; and strengthening regional cooperation and exchanges within Africa.

A year before the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, which is to take place at the next session of the General Assembly, it is already difficult to avoid pessimism. It seems as though the political will that reigned during the preparation and adoption of the Agenda has been sadly missing in its implementation. The commitments undertaken by Africa's partners are slow to be fulfilled; in a variety of ways, this threatens an orderly development of Africa that would lead to Africa making its own contribution to the great balance that must mark the twenty-first century.

In any event, Africa knows that its well-being must come first and foremost from within. That knowledge is not new; the Lagos Programme of Action adopted more than a decade ago laid down the broad lines for action at the continental level, surmounting borders and purely national concerns. The 1991 treaty establishing the continent-wide African Economic Community provided for the institutional machinery needed to achieve this collective prosperity. More recently, the Cairo Agenda for Action adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity reaffirmed — if this were necessary — Africa's desire to join the world economy, assessed the progress made, and charted a course for the continent with a more assured vision of the future.

At the same time, Africa, which refuses to be marginalized from progress, is seeking to remind the rest of the international community of its responsibilities. It wants to believe that there will be a universal burst of progress to make Africa into a solid, vital linchpin of

international cooperation for development in the clear interests of one and all.

Mr. Ould Ely (Mauritania) (*interpretation from French*): One year before the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, our continent continues to face untold problems that hamper its economic growth. The hopes raised by that commitment by the international community to the recovery of the States of Africa remain unfulfilled. The report of the Secretary-General (E/1995/81) to the Economic and Social Council at its most recent substantive session, which considered the development of Africa and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, is most instructive in that regard.

Indeed, according to this report, and despite some progress in real growth in some African countries, the situation globally remains precarious, particularly because of the crushing debt burden, the drop in concessional assistance, the minimal volume of direct foreign investment, and the new situation resulting from the multilateral negotiations of the Uruguay Round. In addition to these external constraints, we have continuing natural disasters, such as drought and desertification. All of these factors taken together make Africa's recovery doubtful if their courageous joint measures are not taken both domestically and internationally.

Aware that the development of the continent is primarily a matter for the African Governments and peoples, our leaders have committed themselves to undertaking vigorous political and economic reforms to establish structures for sustainable development. Thus, since the beginning of the 1990s, the continent has truly flourished politically, with a shift from one-party regimes to pluralistic democracies, and the increasing affirmation of respect for human rights.

In parallel with this progress in the political area, Africa has also understood the need to forge solid links of cooperation and economic integration. This has been reflected in the adoption of the Abuja Treaty, establishing the African economic community and in the relaunching of the activities of subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Community of Southern and Eastern African States. Thus, the machinery for the prevention, management and settlement of disputes established at the Cairo Summit has begun to play an active role in conflict resolution.

However, as desirable and as necessary as those initiatives may be, they cannot by themselves redress the economic situation of the continent without the help of the international community. While welcoming actions already undertaken by the United Nations system, in particular the establishment of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries, we place great hopes in the means that Office will have in order to carry out its responsibilities.

Since the launching of the United Nations Agenda in 1991, various measures or initiatives have been undertaken or suggested. From working groups at international conferences, such as that in Tokyo in 1993, to the conclusions reached by the Panel of High-level Personalities, the diagnosis has been made. Today we have to find the necessary and appropriate remedies which, to be effective, must involve a radical solution to the debt problem, a substantial increase in financial flows to Africa, and commodity diversification. We feel, in this framework, that it is high time to set up the commodity diversification fund in the African Development Bank. This will enable African countries to reduce losses caused by drops in commodity prices and to expand their export base. Also, during the transitional phase in the implementation of the agreements reached at the Uruguay Round, compensatory measures must be taken to offset losses that will be caused by the disappearance of preferential margins so far granted to African products.

At a time of globalization of trade and commercial relations, it would be dangerous to marginalize Africa. Africa has enormous natural and human potential for development. That is why we urge the international community to translate the priority given to the continent into concrete actions. In this connection, we hope that the mid-term review that we will undertake next year will enable us to give concrete form to the commitments already made by the international community to meet the development needs of this large part of humanity.

Mr. Muthaura (Kenya): I commend the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports — contained in documents A/50/520 and A/50/490 — on the status of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

As we urge increased international support for African development, Kenya has no illusion that the primary responsibility lies with African countries individually and collectively. The commitment by African countries to tackle their economic problems is evident by

the structural reforms being undertaken in many of those countries, despite serious socio-economic and political constraints.

The recent adoption of the "Cairo Agenda for Action" underlines the determination of the African countries to pull their continent out of the vicious circle of underdevelopment. This Agenda emphasizes that Africa's development is first and foremost the responsibility of the African Governments and their people. It outlines what actions African Governments and their people need to take in order to relaunch the continent's economic and social development.

Although a number of African countries have experienced some economic growth and development in the recent past, the African economic crisis which started in the early 1980s continues to persist in the 1990s despite the adoption of the programmes of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). Most of these economies continue to stagnate as a result of debilitating debt burden, dwindling external financial flows and poor terms of trade due to over-reliance on a few primary commodities. The situation is compounded by the negative social and economic effects associated with structural adjustment programmes.

We are concerned that UN-NADAF may not achieve the desired objectives as elaborated by the General Assembly in the Agenda and the related resolutions. This is largely due to lack of symmetry and effective complementarity between internal and external development policies and support measures. While African countries continue to make every effort to implement structural adjustment programmes to fulfil their commitments as contained in UN-NADAF, the international community has not lived up to its commitments. It is apparent that the political will that led to the adoption of UN-NADAF has been backed up neither by increased financial resources nor by a comprehensive solution to Africa's debt burden. African countries continue to lag behind on both the technological and the capital formation fronts needed for the diversification of their economies — hence the need for continued assistance by the international community.

In this regard, acquiescing to the "donor fatigue" argument floated to mask the lack of political will on the part of the donor community is the same as giving up on cancer research and treatment because cancer continues to kill. But with a little more effective support the reforms which African countries have undertaken in recent years and which they are still implementing will turn around the economic prospects for many African countries.

Africa's debt problem requires urgent attention, as most of the measures so far undertaken have not been able to bring the burden to a manageable level. Further initiatives, including cancellation of bilateral debts, are required. More importantly, bold innovative measures by the multilateral institutions to reduce effectively the huge debt owed by the African countries are urgent. Easing of the multilateral debt would play a significant role in support for the economic reforms that are being implemented by many African countries. Such measures, coupled with increased flow of concessional financial resources, would boost investment and productivity in the continent. It is therefore regrettable that the recommendation outlined in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) calling for $30 billion in official development assistance for Africa, with annual increases of 4 per cent per annum, has not been achieved.

My delegation is conscious of the importance of domestic resources mobilization and the significance of financial sector development. We welcome the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/50/490) which, *inter alia*, emphasize the need to strengthen central banks to enable them to play their crucial role in nurturing and supervising the financial system, including the informal sector. These recommendations clearly recognize the importance of equipping the central banks adequately with the necessary resources. It is essential that they should effectively carry out their responsibilities for ensuring compliance with sound monetary policies.

We support the strengthening of the informal financial sector because of its ability to augment the mobilization of savings from broader sections of the population. Kenya attaches much importance to this sector, which is a major source of finance for the majority of our people. Women, in particular, have been able to invest and participate in income-generating activities through the support of the informal financial sector facilities.

To this end, we urge the international community to support Africa's efforts towards the development of the financial sector, including transfer of appropriate technology at affordable prices to central banks to facilitate their institutional capacity building. Support for

the financial sector has become even more urgent owing to the new challenges facing the banks as a result of liberalization of monetary policies and trade by most African countries.

Africa's share in international trade is very small and African countries, in general, have not been able substantially to broaden their export base. The international community stands to benefit immensely by supporting the economic diversification processes in African countries. Yet the response of the international community has been constrained because of the weak infrastructure and low purchasing power in African countries. We are therefore appealing for increased international support to improve the investment climate and productivity in our countries. Increased application of technology in production processes and the strengthening of the trade support structures should enable African countries to face the challenges of competition arising from globalization of international trade.

We are disappointed that there has been no significant achievement so far with regard to the replenishment of the African diversification fund within the African Development Bank. Nevertheless, my delegation welcomes the efforts of the African Development Bank in regard to the consultations on the replenishment of the African Development Fund, from which we have high expectations. The level of this replenishment should be adequate in the light of the large number of African countries and the diversity of the envisaged projects and programmes. In addressing the issues of the diversification of commodities, account should be taken of the need to promote both horizontal and vertical diversification. Commodities should be given added value through processing, marketing, distribution and transportation. That approach calls for substantial investments and transfer of appropriate technology to African countries to achieve the objective. We are in agreement as well with the recommendations of the United Nations-sponsored inter-agency workshop on the diversification of African economies held at Yaoundé from 13 to 17 February 1995, which recommended *inter alia* that diversification of African economies be integrated in the national, subregional and regional development strategies.

Mr. Ntonga (Cameroon) *(interpretation from French)*: My heart is full of sorrow and sadness as I address the General Assembly today. Cameroon has just suffered one of the most lethal air disasters in its history. An airplane of the national Cameroon Airlines crashed on landing at Douala on 3 December, resulting in many casualties.

Item 24 of the agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s", is of particular importance to my delegation at a time when Cameroon is preparing to host the thirty-second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity.

In common with the African countries as a whole, Cameroon welcomed with a sense of relief and satisfaction the adoption of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) after the failure of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. Given that unfortunate situation, and in an unparalleled display of solidarity, Africa and the international community decided to adopt what was then described as a "world partnership for development".

Recognizing that it is primarily responsible for its own development, and in keeping with commitments entered into under UN-NADAF, Africa has recently become involved in far-reaching and difficult reforms designed to accelerate the process of democratization, promote human rights and achieve economic, social and cultural development, in a climate of transparency and with the active participation of all positive forces. This is being done by stressing attractive conditions for investment, the development of human resources, the implementation of structural adjustment programmes and the pursuit and consolidation of economic integration through subregional and international cooperation.

For its part, as pointed out by His Excellency Ferdinand-Leopold Oyono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, when he addressed the General Assembly on 5 October, Cameroon has embarked on the irreversible pursuit of the process of democratization, in which there will be significant progress with the adoption of a new Constitution allowing for greater democratic participation by the citizens of Cameroon in the management of their own affairs. Significant reforms have also been made in economic areas, notably by an extremely liberal investment code and the disengagement of the State from the management of major public enterprises.

The President returned to the Chair.

It goes without saying that the efforts made by the African countries, sometimes at great sacrifice, can lead

to the desired results only if combined with the active and sustained support of the international community.

My delegation considers that the solidarity evinced by the international community when the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was adopted has been slow in its concrete expression. Indeed, only a few months from the mid-term review of the New Agenda and despite the various measures that have been taken, the economic and social situation of Africa is a continuing cause of concern.

The international economic context in which the African countries must operate is most unfavourable. Net resource revenues to Africa have declined drastically, dropping from $22.9 billion in 1990 to $21.7 billion in 1993. The total debt burden of Africa has increased from $297 billion in 1994 to $313 billion in 1995 — in other words, more than 250 per cent of the continent's export revenue. Africa's share in the global market has been shrinking since 1980, now constituting no more than 2.4 per cent. And Africa, with $48 billion in direct foreign investment, is the developing region that is the least attractive to foreign investors.

If we do not wish the mid-term review of the New Agenda, set for 1996, to be simply another academic exercise or another opportunity to take note of the failure of the New Agenda, an important step must be taken at this session of the General Assembly. The international community must implement the commitments it freely entered into under the New Agenda. Significant measures will have to be adopted to support the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable economic and social development. Here I refer in particular to the diversification of African commodities and economies. A special contribution could be made by the African Development Bank to help small African producers undertake bankable projects. In this connection, my delegation welcomes the announcement that the Amsterdam Common Fund is to hold a seminar in February 1996.

On another subject, my delegation fully supports the proposals relating to advancing financial intermediation in Africa, as this is a way to strengthen local savings structures and to link them with modern banks and financial institutions, with a view to generating local resources at this time when official development assistance is dwindling at an unprecedented rate.

With respect to financial resources, my delegation welcomes the establishment of a line of credit for the development of Africa. We consider, however, that additional efforts should be made in order to ensure that these resources will be commensurate with the challenges ahead and will more accurately reflect the priority assigned by the United Nations to Africa, and in particular to Programme 45: critical economic situation, recovery and development.

My delegation therefore welcomes the general determination that has been evinced since the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations to increase, in accordance with the recommendations made by the Committee on Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fifth session, the financial resources available for the implementation of Programme 45 Africa.

In conclusion, I commend the efforts exerted by the entire United Nations system to implement the United Nations New Agenda, and in particular the efforts made by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries.

Mr. Mongbe (Benin) (*interpretation from French*): Before taking up the agenda item before us, I should like to convey to our sister Cameroon delegation the most sincere condolences of the delegation of Benin on this morning's air disaster at Douala international airport, which claimed many victims.

The General Assembly is now considering agenda item 24, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s", a subject that, unfortunately, is becoming part of the end-of-session ritual of the General Assembly, when representatives' fatigue and their eagerness to sample the delights of the Christmas holiday take precedence over any genuine desire seriously to discuss a question that ranks among the priorities of our Organization.

I shall limit my statement to a few remarks that might contribute to a better understanding of draft resolution A/50/L.40, which was just distributed and will be introduced, in due course, by the Chairman of our Group, Ambassador Osman Yassin of the Sudan.

My delegation is grateful to the Secretary-General for having produced two very interesting and instructive reports on this item. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to him for the untiring efforts he has been making since the adoption of the United Nations New Agenda to ensure its consistent implementation.

The report of the Secretary-General on advancing financial intermediation in Africa appears to be an excellent introduction to comprehensive financial reforms in that continent. The delegation of Benin hopes this important study not only will be widely distributed to the African Ministers of Finance and the Governors of development banks, but also will figure in the organization of regional meetings or consultations that will make possible the effective translation of the recommendations of the report into concrete actions, with the assistance of the relevant agencies of the United Nations system.

Aware of the realities of the national economies of the continent, how can we not welcome, for example, the recommendations emphasizing the interplay between the formal and informal sectors, which would strengthen our countries' ability to mobilize small savings from relatively marginal sections of our populations? This report, in my delegation's view, makes a positive contribution to the search for applicable solutions within the framework of the development of the countries of the African continent.

My delegation welcomes also the clarity of the other report of the Secretary-General, on the implementation of resolution 49/192, on the diversification of African economies. We thank the Secretariat for having informed the African Development Bank of the results of the consultations held at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly. We duly appreciate the organization of workshops to make local institutions aware of the need to diversify African commodities.

The delegation of Benin encourages the Secretary-General to establish more solid and more sustained working relations with the African Development Bank in order to facilitate the inclusion in the present negotiating process for the seventh replenishment of a special contribution to finance the preparatory phase of programmes and projects for the diversification of commodities in the African countries.

Finally, my delegation wishes to make a sincere and urgent appeal to the international community at large, and to the States participating in the African Development Fund in particular, to implement the minimal recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 49/142. Last year the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, at the request of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Addis Ababa in June 1995, again emphasized the need for the international community to support the efforts undertaken by the African countries with regard to the priorities defined in the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). Benin hopes that positive actions will emerge before the mid-term review of the Agenda, in 1996.

It is disturbing that UN-NADAF has faltered so much. Thirty-five years after various countries achieved independence in the 1960s, 10 years after the unanimous adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD), five years after the start of experiments geared towards democracy and four years after consensus adoption of the United Nations New Agenda for Development of Africa in the 1990s, Africa's agony continues. It lives in psychosis and in genuine fear of a social explosion whose consequences will spread to other continents which, believe me, are but other neighbourhoods in our global village.

As I have said on other occasions, this state of affairs is aggravated by armed conflicts, civil wars, the AIDS pandemic — added to other devastating or debilitating endemic illnesses, such as malaria — and by emergency situations, such as famine, drought, natural disasters, desertification and so on. All this has in recent years affected, and continues to affect, a number of African countries, leaving them vulnerable, very weak and dependent on foreign aid.

The situation in Africa is surely critical, carrying as it does the seeds of underdevelopment. But it is not apocalyptic, and there is a tomorrow. The African continent has no lack of resources. I say, without false modesty and without exaggeration, what others have said: it is potentially the richest continent but also the most cruelly poor, impoverished by a number of factors that need not be mentioned now, but the most recent of which is the iniquity of the contemporary international economic system.

Africa can and must stop being the only part of the world deserving to be described as a weakly industrialized producer of commodities.

It must be recognized that local factors have contributed largely to the current state of affairs. We know, for example, that poor management, the lack of consistency in economic choices and, in some cases, excessive military expenditures have not helped build responsible projects and programmes to eliminate poverty and revive the economy.

Africa knows how to make a recovery. It knows that it must take responsibility for instilling a new awareness that will rid its sons of their habits of taking the easy path of improvisation, begging or atavistically wanting development to come entirely from outside. In a world where the accentuated selfishness of States is noticeably replacing the spirit of human solidarity, in an era when a strong neo-cartographic trend inspires the parliaments and chancelleries of well-off countries, Africans must get down to the task of removing from their political discourse the shorthand phrases and clichés used up to now to define the profound inertia of a continent that has for 30 years been engaged in an obscure process of development.

In acquiring that new awareness, Africa and Africans do not want to, cannot and must not exempt the international community from the responsibilities *vis-à-vis* the continent that it freely took on during the last five years, in line with a number of consensuses coming out of recent world meetings.

I do not wish to list them here for fear of forgetting some of those commitments that we would like to see carried out, but it is the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s that we are focusing on today. This Agenda is an appropriate framework for carrying out concrete actions for Africa. We agree with Ambassador Martin Huslid of Norway, who presided over the work of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, responsible for developing the Agenda in 1991, that in subscribing to this programme,

> "The international community accepts the principle of shared responsibility and full partnership with Africa and therefore commits itself to giving full and tangible support to the African efforts." *(resolution 46/151, annex II, para. 1)*

This programme elaborated by the General Assembly has undeniable political importance. Moreover, by presenting in detail the machinery for follow-up and monitoring, UN-NADAF guarantees Africa's being one of the five priorities of the United Nations, as Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has so often emphasized.

But, alas, almost midway through its implementation, UN-NADAF has been implemented only embryonically or partially. The only major manifestations that might suggest a willingness to implement it are the efforts of the Secretary-General, which led to high-level meetings in Geneva, Rome and New York and the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, organized thanks to the active cooperation of the Japanese Government, the Global Coalition for Africa and, of course, the United Nations, through the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries.

My delegation recognizes furthermore that some bodies of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have taken encouraging initiatives that show their interest in implementing the Agenda. We welcome those initiatives, and we can only hope that the various activities engaged in by such bodies will be integrated in a harmonious and coherent whole and will not cancel one another out in the field. Good coordination within the system is the price of giving the New Agenda a chance of success.

The efforts of African delegations for the adoption of a draft resolution calling for the establishment of an African commodity-diversification fund as part of the implementation of the section relating to support for the diversification of African economies have met with nothing but the somewhat scornful refusal of the delegations of certain developed countries. Resolution 49/142, which recommends improving existing compensatory machinery, increasing the terms offered by the Amsterdam Common Fund and establishing a special contribution to finance the preparatory phase of projects and programmes for African commodities, is nothing but a small consolation prize that African delegations accepted with a certain sense of resignation.

For this reason, the delegation of Benin wishes to make a friendly appeal to all other delegations, especially those of the developed countries, to show their political will by recommending to their respective Governments that resolution 49/142 be effectively implemented. This is the least one can do to ensure the success of UN-NADAF and renewed development in Africa.

This is the right time and the right place to pay tribute to the Economic and Social Council and to its President, Ambassador Kamal of Pakistan, for the fruitful consultations organized last July in Geneva during the high-level segment of that organ's 1995 substantive session. My delegation hopes that the conclusions of the President of the Council will be appropriately distributed to delegations in the General Assembly.

I have absolutely no desire to be a prophet of doom, so it gives me no pleasure to say that the lack of political will on the part of several Member States or observers in our Organization with regard to UN-NADAF could condemn it to failure, as occurred in the case of its predecessor, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD). Africa would then have wasted two decades waiting for the generosity of the international community.

In my comments on behalf of my delegation here before the General Assembly, I have admitted that Africa has had and still has its defects. However, it must be noted that the States of the continent have in recent years made, and are continuing to make, commendable efforts to honour their various commitments undertaken in the framework of UN-NADAF and that of international agreements. By way of proof we have the unstoppable march towards democratization in the four corners of our continent; the constant expansion in Africa of promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; the improvement of methods of administration and management and the fight against corruption in many countries, all of which has been carried out in the harsh climate of structural-adjustment programmes.

Yes, Africa can and must stand tall and exorcise the demon of fratricidal conflicts that belong to another age, reclaiming peace and stability by resolutely committing itself to the path of regional economic integration and by reorganizing its trade along the lines advocated by UN-NADAF.

It has been said, but cannot be repeated enough — and no school of thought, no economic-development specialist can contradict me — that the development process in Africa will come to a standstill if the efforts of the African States continue to be bogged down by the burden of external debt, if flows of capital continue to be insufficient, if the obstacles limiting market access persist, if commodities are not diversified or changed and if the terms of trade remain depressed.

Any serious thought, here or elsewhere, must take these elements into account and result in the proposal of suitable, lasting and immediate solutions to them.

History teaches us that no nation in the world has developed without obtaining and utilizing resources for private and public investment. Many countries enjoying prosperity or on the fast track to prosperity are represented here, and they will have no trouble vouching for this.

And so, what about Africa?

No, Africa has not been put under a curse or damned by fate not to follow the fortunate examples I have just mentioned. There is still room for hope, be it to the liking of the Afro-sceptics or not.

The draft resolution which has just been circulated represents a modest step that the Group of African States, through its Chairman, the Ambassador of Sudan, invites the General Assembly to take in order to recall that Africa remains one of its five priorities, even if attendance in the General Assembly continues to be low when African issues are dealt with.

Mr. Sengwe (Zimbabwe): My delegation joins the delegation of Benin in offering its sincere condolences to the people of Cameroon for the tragic loss of life resulting from the airplane disaster at Douala international airport.

Let me begin my remarks by expressing our sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for the reports which he has presented to us on agenda item 24, entitled "Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s". These reports have been at once analytical, comprehensive and insightful inasmuch as they have exposed the dark cloud hanging over much of Africa, threatening to drag the continent deeper into economic ruin, social decay and political instability. It is not my wish to burden the Assembly with the long litany of Africa's economic woes, most of which we have all perhaps become familiar with. In this regard, it is perhaps not incorrect to say that the problems in Africa have not gone unnoticed. There has been no shortage of programmes of action to accelerate the development of Africa.

During the 1980s, we had the ill-fated United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD), and now the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) has run half its course. Given this impressive array of initiatives to help Africa, is it not curious and ironic that, in fact, at the end of each of these programmes, the aggregate economic performance of Africa has been worse than at the beginning? Indeed, as the numerous reports of the

Secretary-General clearly indicate, the overall economic situation in many African countries has not improved since the launching of UN-NADAF, but has instead taken a turn for the worse.

There can be only one explanation for the African predicament and for the reasons behind the many failed initiatives. There is a wide gap between rhetoric and good intentions, on the one hand, and concrete action, on the other. It is this yawning gap between the plans and the means of implementation that this Assembly should now strive to address and resolve. A few months before the mid-term review of UN-NADAF, can we sincerely say that this compact has succeeded, even in the most modest of terms, where UNPAAERD so dismally failed? In my delegation's opinion, we cannot afford to turn UN-NADAF into a repeat performance of the abortive UNPAAERD process.'

During the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council earlier this year, my delegation expressed its profound disappointment at the virtually zero-level implementation of UN-NADAF. Our initial apprehensions and worst fears have been painfully realized, and those of us from the continent are now being forced to ask ourselves some very hard questions about the internationalism and "brotherhood of man" which our Organization epitomizes. For many of us who know what it feels like to be on the lowest rungs of economic and technological development, these questions are far from academic, as they represent genuine disappointment at the overall attitude of the international community towards the African predicament.

When the New Agenda for the Development of Africa was adopted, it was universally recognized that a critical element of the international community's support for Africa's own efforts was the provision of adequate resource flows. In the light not only of a persistent decline in the net aggregate resource flows to Africa, but, more ominously, of the continuing flight of capital out of the continent, we hope that when the Secretary-General presents his reports to the Assembly at this session and at the mid-term review, he will outline the projected total resource requirements needed for the full implementation of UN-NADEF and specific recommendations on the mobilization of resources to meet the set goals and targets of this compact.

No new initiative, programme of action or strategy can possibly succeed in Africa if comprehensive measures are not taken urgently to address and resolve the continent's excruciating debt problem. Indeed, we agree with the Secretary-General that:

> "Africa's debt issue cannot be dissociated from that of financial resources necessary for the economic recovery and development of the continent." *(A/48/336, para. 56)*

We would therefore wish to reiterate the urgent need for a lasting and definitive solution to Africa's external-debt problem.

For reasons with which most of us in this Assembly are familiar, most African countries rely on too few commodities for their export earnings, and the exports of these commodities have been stagnant. Now that a new multilateral trade regime is operational under the auspices of the World Trade Organization, my delegation is gravely concerned that Africa's largely monocultural economies will continue to be marginalized in the increasingly integrated global economy. In this regard, the case for accelerated diversification of African economies cannot be overemphasized. It is for this reason that my delegation is concerned that the international community has turned a deaf ear to the call for the establishment of and contributions towards the diversification fund.

My remarks should be construed neither as a sign of ingratitude for the assistance that has been rendered nor to mean that we, the African people, do not have a contribution to make towards our own socio-economic uplifting. To the contrary, we are aware of the need to develop our national capacities and mobilize domestic resources. In recognition of this fact, many African countries have undertaken various forms of structural economic reforms at enormous social and political cost. Yet for us to tackle this challenge successfully, there is a need for more than mere pious expressions of solidarity, as we are sure to hear during the September mid-term review. More than such empty expressions, Africa needs tangible support in the form of new and additional resources and the transfer of and access to technology on a concessional basis.

Africa remains committed to the implementation of the New Agenda and is scrupulously adhering to its side of the compact. We shall reserve our substantive comments for the forthcoming mid-term review of the UN-NADAF. However, as we prepare for that review, we see no cause for celebration on that important occasion. There is no doubt that there is no political will

or commitment whatsoever to help Africa overcome its economic predicament. For centuries, the continent and its abundant human and material resources have contributed significantly, in various ways, to global progress. We do not believe that it is asking too much for the international community now to identify with Africa and provide modest assistance and support for the sterling efforts of African countries.

So far, UN-NADAF has taken us nowhere, and the current level of non-implementation does not inspire much hope. It is abundantly clear that UN-NADAF has so far failed to galvanize and catalyse international support for the continent's economic development. We therefore call on the international community to renew its solidarity with the African continent through tangible support.

Mr. Eteffa (Ethiopia): My delegation would like to extend its deeply felt condolences to the people and the Government of Cameroon and to the bereaved families for the lives lost in the air crash in Douala.

As a representative of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), I am pleased to participate in this discussion. Allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his informative report, which addresses the economic and social problems facing Africa as well as the major strategic framework of action needed to revitalize the African economy.

The continuing crisis of development in Africa is one of the major challenges currently facing the international community. The marginalization of Africa from the globalization process of the world economy, along with declining economic and social trends, underscores the need to give the highest priority to putting Africa back on the path to development.

It was in response to such an economic and social decline experienced by several African countries since the 1980s that Africa and the international community launched various initiatives aimed at the continent's economic recovery and development. In this regard, one of the major initiatives of the international community was the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, which was adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

The New Agenda kindled the hope that the end of the cold war would bring ample opportunities for international cooperation to promote Africa's development, especially at a time when many countries were engaged in democratization and were vigorously pursuing economic reforms. However, four years after the New Agenda's adoption, and one year before its mid-term review, the results are not encouraging.

External factors, including declining commodity prices, increased competition for concessional resources and the debt burden, continued to have a negative effect on Africa's socio-economic recovery. Africa is the only region in the world to have experienced continuous stagnation and decline since 1980. During the 1980s nine African countries fell from the group of middle-income countries to the group of least developed countries. In 1995 Africa accounted for 33 of the 48 least developed countries. Except for limited signs of recovery and growth in a few countries, per capita income in most African countries is far below the target set in the New Agenda.

The socio-economic conditions I have outlined and the continuous marginalization of Africa from the process of globalizing the world economy dictate — now more than at any other time — that the partnership between Africa and the international community in implementing the objectives of the New Agenda should be strengthened. This requires concerted action to ensure a consistent and incremental flow of resources, effective participation by African countries in international trade and a strategy to resolve the crushing debt problem faced by the continent.

As most African countries still depend on concessional aid for their development programmes, improving its quality and quantity aid deserves priority consideration. In this regard, implementation of the level of official development assistance for Africa recommended in the New Agenda — $30 billion, with an annual increase of 4 per cent — is a matter of the highest priority. It is also necessary to make every effort to increase levels of official development assistance in accordance with the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) — 0.15 per cent in the case of the least developed countries.

Likewise, the multilateral and regional development banks, as well as United Nations development programmes and funds, should ensure consistent support for the continent's socio-economic recovery effort. In this regard, Africa attaches paramount importance to timely replenishment of the funds of the International Development Association and the African Development

Bank, as well as to augmentation of core resources allocated for the operational activities of the United Nations.

These proposals regarding the flow of resources to Africa can contribute significantly to sustainable growth and development only if they are accompanied by a multi-pronged strategy to alleviate the continent's crushing debt problem. Debt overhang has become one of the major challenges faced by most African countries. Despite relief measures, the estimated burden of debt at the end of 1994 was equivalent to 83 per cent of Africa's GNP and 255 per cent of its export income. This implies the need for a comprehensive debt strategy. Therefore, the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on development in Africa, including the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s — a report submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session — deserve close consideration.

The proposed new approaches include: an improvement in the Naples Terms by raising the ceiling, extending the relief to cover all types of Paris Club non-concessional debt, softening the eligibility criteria and exploring ways of relieving the non-Paris-Club debt burden; the removal of all remaining concessional debt; the reduction of all remaining private short-term and long-term debt through expansion of buy-back mechanisms; and the introduction of innovative mechanisms to reduce the increasing multilateral debt.

In addition to the external flow of resources and a multi-pronged debt-relief strategy tailored to each country's specific situation, there is a need to enhance Africa's participation in the new international-trade regime. Specific action is required to promote African countries' competitiveness in the international market and to strengthen their capacity to cope with the immediate consequences of the Uruguay Round and benefit fully from the gains arising from trade liberalization.

To this end, the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other organizations need to be implemented expeditiously. They include the following: deferring removal of the trade preferences that African countries have enjoyed; implementing agreed most-favoured-nation tariff reductions in respect of export products of African countries that do not enjoy preferential treatment; providing financial support to assist African countries in dealing with balance of payments pressures and transitional strains consequent on policy reforms; implementing the Marrakesh Ministerial declaration, which addresses the specific problems of the least developed countries and net food-importing countries; and assisting African countries in their effort to have horizontal and vertical diversification and ultimately to enhance their competitiveness in world trade, and, to that end making adequate contributions to finance the preparatory phases of commodity-diversification projects and programmes, as called for in General Assembly resolution 49/142.

The international community's assistance in these areas will not only offset the adverse consequences of the Uruguay Round, but also lay the ground for effective participation by Africa in the new international trade regime, through processing, manufacturing and distributing finished goods based on the continent's primary commodities. This process will, in turn, open avenues for industrialization, the acquisition of technology and the provision of employment opportunities.

In view of the unsatisfactory implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), the mid-term review and appraisal of the Agenda by the General Assembly should be an occasion for an in-depth assessment of actions taken so far as well as of the measures that are needed for sustainable growth and development in Africa beyond 1996.

The review and appraisal meeting should be organized with relevant inputs from United Nations organs, agencies and programmes as well as the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and other competent bodies. The intergovernmental process has to be preceded by preparatory conferences involving donor countries, multilateral financial institutions and African countries to generate the expected results. My delegation would like to propose that, in addition to examining the implementation of programmes, the review meeting should also consider institutional issues. It has to identify an organization within the United Nations family to lead and coordinate all the major initiatives on Africa.

In this regard the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), which is the regional arm of the United Nations, has a comparative advantage for the assumption of this responsibility. The ECA, the OAU and the African Development Bank already have a tripartite mechanism to coordinate international development programmes, and we urge that this arrangement be further strengthened in

order to expedite the implementation of UN-NADAF and other initiatives related to the socio-economic recovery of Africa. The review meeting must come up with specific implementable proposals that would enable the ECA to discharge its responsibilities.

UN-NADAF has to make a difference in African development by having positive impacts on the lives of the people in the region. It is in this spirit that we ask the General Assembly to adopt the draft resolution before us unanimously.

Programme of work

The President: I should like to make an announcement concerning the programme of work of the General Assembly.

May I remind members that document A/INF/50/5/Add.3, containing the tentative programme of work and schedule of plenary meetings for the month of December is now available to delegations. The list of speakers for each of the items listed therein is therefore open.

I should like to point out that there are still some agenda items for which no date has yet been indicated. I will announce the dates for the consideration of those items as soon as they are scheduled. I will also keep the Assembly informed of any additions or changes.

As I mentioned to the Assembly in earlier announcements, I hope to keep close to this schedule so that the Assembly can discharge its responsibilities as effectively and expeditiously as possible. I again appeal to those representatives who wish to submit draft resolutions to do so sufficiently in advance of the dates fixed for consideration of items in order to give members adequate time to examine them.

I should like to reiterate that additional time is needed for draft resolutions involving changes in the work programme or additional expenditures since they will require the preparation by the Secretary-General of a statement of programme-budget implications. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee will need adequate time to review the programme-budget implications of a draft resolution before it can be acted on by the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

United Nations A/50/PV.79

General Assembly
Fiftieth Session

Official Records

79th plenary meeting
Monday, 4 December 1995, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Diogo Freitas do Amaral ..... (Portugal)

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

Agenda item 44 *(continued)*

The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General (A/50/574)

Draft resolutions (A/50/L.24, A/50/L/37 and A/50/L.38)

The President: This afternoon, the General Assembly will continue its consideration of agenda item 44 for the purpose of taking action on the draft resolutions submitted under the item.

I call on the representative of Norway as one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/50/L.24.

Mr. Aass (Norway): I wish to announce that since the introduction of draft resolution A/50/L.24, the following countries have become co-sponsors of the draft resolution: Albania, Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Djibouti, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Honduras, Iceland, India, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Federated States of Micronesia, Morocco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Senegal, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The President: Before we proceed to take action on draft resolution A/50/L.37, I wish to announce that, since the introduction of that draft resolution, Bahrain and Oman have become co-sponsors.

Moreover, before we proceed to take action on draft resolution A/50/L.38, I wish to announce that, since the introduction of that draft resolution, the following countries have become co-sponsors: Bahrain, Djibouti, Mauritania, Morocco and Oman.

We will now proceed to consider draft resolutions A/50/L.24, A/50/L.37 and A/50/L.38.

Several representatives wish to make statements in explanation of vote before the voting.

May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Moubarak (Lebanon): As it did last year, my delegation will vote against the draft resolution contained in document A/50/L.24.

Lebanon, which wholeheartedly participated in the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid on 30 October 1991, is the country which has suffered the most from the Arab-Israeli conflict. Thus we feel that we have much to gain from the conclusion of the just, lasting and comprehensive peace that we seek to attain in the region.

95-86909 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one month of the date of the meeting*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

However, the draft resolution before us, despite our efforts with its sponsors, failed to address our particular concern, which is the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) calling for Israel to withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory to the internationally recognized boundaries of Lebanon. Real peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without this prerequisite. We have reiterated this point time and again, whether in Madrid, in the bilateral peace talks held at Washington, or in every other international forum.

Once again, I should like to recall that Lebanon participated in the Madrid Peace Conference and the subsequent bilateral talks in Washington on the basis of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) in order to end the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon. This was based on the clear understanding that the Middle East peace process would provide the framework for Israel finally to implement Security Council resolution 425 (1978), which it has refused to do for the last 17 years and, in particular, since the beginning of the peace process four years ago.

Furthermore, the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Southern Lebanon, the daily acts of aggression committed by the Israeli forces against Lebanese civilians and the declarations of Israeli officials at the highest level do not give us any assurances on Israeli compliance with the terms of the resolution.

The violent situation prevailing in South Lebanon stresses the complete failure of the concept of the security zone established by Israel. Moreover, the numerous attacks launched by the Israeli army in the north of that zone underline again, and eloquently, the failure of that concept.

We firmly believe that only the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) will be conducive to peace and security in South Lebanon.

Security Council resolution 425 (1978) is a clear-cut resolution. Indeed, the Security Council, since 1978, has constantly renewed the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). No peace in the Middle East will prevail as long as Israel occupies South Lebanon and the Golan. Israel must withdraw fully from South Lebanon in conformity with Security Council resolution 425 (1978), and from the Golan up to the 4 June 1967 line in conformity with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), if there is to be a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

As an essential participant in the Middle East peace process, Lebanon is casting a negative vote on the draft resolution before us. The international community will measure fully the meaning and the importance of our vote, which underlines clearly and without any shadow of a doubt that our position in the bilateral peace talks remains constant and unshakeable. We reiterate our firm demand for the full implementation of Security Council 425 (1978).

Furthermore, my delegation has reservations regarding the third, fourth and seventh preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 5 and 8 of the draft resolution, which mention the multilateral talks. I wish to reiterate once again Lebanon's well-known and consistent position on this subject. Lebanon considers that no multilateral talks should be held until the bilateral talks have resulted in complete agreement among all the participants in the Peace Conference. We continue to believe firmly that the multilateral talks being held today are premature and cannot but be inconclusive.

Finally, I should like to emphasize that Lebanon remains fully committed to the Madrid Peace Conference, with a view to achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. My country will continue to ask for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) in order to meet that challenge.

Mr. Hasan (Iraq) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My county's delegation supports the objectives of resolution contained in document A/50/L.37, on Al-Quds, as it does those of draft resolution A/50/L.38, on the occupied Syrian Golan. These draft resolutions are submitted to us under the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East".

Had we not been deprived of our vote because of the comprehensive sanctions imposed on us and the freezing of our assets abroad, we would have voted in support of these two draft resolutions. However, my delegation wishes nonetheless to put on record its reservations concerning the last preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/50/L.38. Furthermore, we believe that draft resolution A/50/L.37, on Al-Quds has neglected to refer to a grave development that has a bearing on the future of the Holy City, namely the latest decision by the American Congress to move the American embassy to Al-Quds in 1999. That decision contravenes a number of General Assembly resolutions, beginning with General Assembly resolution 181 (II) and contravenes also a number of Security Council resolutions, including

resolutions 250 (1968), 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 271 (1969), 298 (1971), 476 (1980), 478 (1980) and 672 (1990).

All those resolutions take the view that Israel's steps to change the legal status of the Holy City of Jerusalem are null and void, and they call on all States to comply with their provisions. Furthermore, the decision by the United States Congress is contrary to the commitments undertaken by the United States, which calls itself the sponsor of peace. These commitments include the letter of assurance to the Palestinian party of 24 October 1991, which states that

> "The United States opposes the annexing of East Jerusalem, the imposition of Israeli law in that part of the town and the extension of the limits of the municipality".

That decision by the Congress is an act of provocation that offends both Muslims and Christians in the Arab world and in the Islamic world at large, as was noted in the 25 October 1995 communiqué of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States.

For these reasons, my delegation takes the view that the fact that the draft resolution ignores this grave development weakens it and makes it incomplete.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote before the voting.

Before we proceed to take action on the draft resolutions, I should like to announce that since the introduction of draft resolution A/50/L.24 Benin has become a co-sponsor.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the three draft resolutions under agenda item 44: A/50/L.24, A/50/L.37 and A/50/L.38.

We turn first to draft resolution A/50/L.24, entitled "Middle East peace process".

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Syrian Arab Republic

Abstaining:

Sudan

Draft resolution A/50/L.24 was adopted by 148 votes to 4, with 1 abstention (resolution 50/21).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.]

The President: We turn next to draft resolution A/50/L.37, entitled "Jerusalem".

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomón Islands, Swaziland, United States of America

Draft resolution A/50/L.37 was adopted by 133 votes to 1, with 13 abstentions (resolution 50/22 A).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Italy informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria had intended to abstain.]

The President: We come now to draft resolution A/50/L.38, entitled "The Syrian Golan".

We shall now begin the voting process.

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Israel, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru,

Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela

Draft resolution A/50/L.38 was adopted by 66 votes to 2, with 79 abstentions (resolution 50/22 B).

[Subsequently, the delegation of Nigeria informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour; the delegation of Guinea-Bissau had intended to abstain.]

The President: Several representatives wish to make statements in explanation of vote.

May I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Hizlan (Turkey): My delegation voted in favour of all three draft resolutions before the Assembly today, as we have done in the past in the case of similar draft resolutions. However, I would like to clarify the position of my delegation on one aspect of the situation in the Middle East.

In our opinion, the success of the Middle East peace process will to a great extent depend on putting an end to terrorism in the region. Therefore, the countries of the region should, by all means, refrain from encouraging terrorists groups directly or indirectly. It is hoped that this will be done by all States concerned.

Mr. Valencia Rodríguez (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Ecuador voted in favour of draft resolutions A/50/L.24, A/50/L.37 and A/50/L.38 because it is convinced that it is necessary to contribute in the most efficient manner possible to strengthening of the process of negotiations currently under way with a view to reaching a comprehensive, fair and lasting solution to the difficult and dangerous conflict in the Middle East. We acknowledge with special satisfaction that essential steps have been taken to achieve that objective, and we applaud these fundamental achievements. We fervently hope that this process will continue, and even more intensely, so that it may soon culminate in the result we all desire.

This vote, based on the reasons I have indicated, reflects Ecuador's unswerving position of rejecting and refusing to recognize the territorial occupation or annexation of territory by force, or violations of human rights. The vote also reflects Ecuador's firm conviction that a peaceful and negotiated settlement must be found to the existing territorial problems among the States concerned in conformity with the principles established in the Charter and the rules of international law.

Mr. Gaussot (France) (*interpretation from French*): My delegation of course associates itself with draft resolution A/50/L.24, just adopted by the General Assembly. We voted in favour of it and we unreservedly support its contents. The new developments in the peace process deserve to be welcomed, and those participating in that peace process should be encouraged to persevere in their efforts.

In this regard, we would like once again to pay tribute to the late Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, who paid with his life for his commitment to peace. As was the case last year with a similar draft resolution, France did not want to co-sponsor draft resolution A/50/L.24, for reasons that are well known to the General Assembly. We believe that the omission of references to Security Council resolution 425 (1978) is regrettable. France attaches particular importance to the principles enshrined in that text and would have liked the United Nations on this occasion to reaffirm its dedication to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Ms. Mawhinney (Canada): In voting on the draft resolution entitled "The Syrian Golan" Canada has maintained its position of last year and has abstained. We very much regret that the text has remained largely unchanged from previous years. Moreover, we regret the addition of a reference to a specific boundary in this year's resolution. Canada believes that this is an issue which should be discussed and ultimately resolved by the interested parties in the wider context of the Middle East peace process. We cannot therefore lend our support to a draft resolution which might prejudge the outcome of those negotiations and eventual agreement between the parties involved.

Mr. Kirkland (United States of America): My Government's views are well known on resolutions that seek to address issues that can only realistically be resolved through negotiations by the parties in the region. This forum does not encourage or support that process of negotiation by continuing to promote resolutions that are clearly divisive, that clearly take sides in the negotiations

and that attempt to set out specific outcomes that must be reached by the parties themselves. The Middle East successes of the last two years have repeatedly shown us that only negotiations by the parties can make peace a reality.

We are convinced that draft resolution A/50/L.38, like others that deal with the long-standing Arab-Israeli dispute, serves only to complicate the achievement of a mutually acceptable outcome and makes the sought-after goal of a comprehensive peace that much more difficult to achieve.

Syria and Israel are engaged in a negotiating process to resolve their differences and achieve a lasting peace agreement. The two parties are deeply involved in this delicate process and we would hope that this forum would avoid resolutions that only complicate their efforts. The United States strongly supports this process as integral to the goal of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. We are firmly committed to this goal in our role as a full partner and active intermediary in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

As has been our practice in the past, the United States abstained in the vote on the draft resolution concerning Jerusalem. Jerusalem must remain undivided, and its future should be decided through permanent status negotiations, as agreed by the parties in the 13 September 1993 Declaration of Principles. This Assembly should not interject itself into this most complex and emotional issue when the parties themselves have decided to defer discussion concerning Jerusalem to their permanent status negotiations, which are scheduled to begin in May 1996.

Mr. Amer (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): Our delegation voted in favour of the draft resolution on the Golan which appears in document A/50/L.38. However, this vote should not be construed as recognition of what is called Israel. On the same basis, my delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/50/L.37 on Al-Quds. In this connection, my delegation wishes to draw attention to the gravity of the decision by the United States Congress to move the United States Embassy to Al-Quds. This decision is a flagrant violation of international legality as embodied in Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. It also constitutes a legal precedent that establishes a principle of non-adherence with regard to Security Council resolutions, as the decision lays the rule that implementation of Security Council resolutions is not an obligation dictated by adherence to the United Nations Charter but a matter that is based on selectivity and on pursuance of a policy of double standards. Therefore, the decision throws the doors wide open for every State that wishes to disregard every resolution it deems to run counter to its interests, to do so, let alone those unjust resolutions that have no basis in international law such as those adopted by the Security Council in the case of my country.

The delegation of my country has voted against draft resolution A/50/L.24 on the Middle East peace process as the contents of that draft resolution do not constitute the full prerequisites of a just comprehensive peace in the Middle East region. How could such a resolution serve the cause of a just comprehensive peace while it ignores a principal element of peace and, thereby, fails to call upon Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978)? How could such a resolution ensure a just peace when it is devoid of any mention of the return of the Palestinian people to its country and to its homes from which it was expelled by the Israeli occupiers under the very eyes of the United Nations which, subsequently, adopted numerous resolutions on the right of return of the Palestinian people?

My country is not against peace. However, the peace we support is not this minefield sort of peace which is a time-bomb that may explode at any moment. The peace we support is one that would spare the lives of Arabs and Jews alike, and which can be reached only through full recognition and implementation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right of return, after which the Palestinians have aspired for more than 50 years, the right to self-determination, independence, national sovereignty and the establishment of a democratic State throughout the Palestinian territory in which Palestinians, Arabs and Jews alike would live, as has happened in South Africa.

Mr. Samadi (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation voted in favour of the draft resolutions contained in documents A/50/L.37 and A/50/L.38. However, I would like to express my delegation's reservations on the parts of those resolutions which might be construed as any recognition of Israel.

Mr. Pérez-Griffo (Spain) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The European Union continues to support fully the peace process in the Middle East and has committed itself to supporting it through joint action that mobilizes the political, economic and financial

resources of the Union. Within the multilateral framework, the European Union pursues the goal of consolidating peace through its support for regional cooperation.

We are following with great interest the situation in Lebanon, where, in the absence of a comprehensive settlement for the entire Middle East region, stability remains fragile. We continue to advocate full respect for the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon.

In this context, the European Union wishes to reaffirm its insistence on the full implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). We call on the parties to make progress in the bilateral negotiations and to bring them to a successful conclusion.

With regard to draft resolution A/50/L.38, entitled "The Syrian Golan", we urge the parties to negotiate seriously and constructively towards a comprehensive and lasting settlement on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), in the framework of the Madrid Peace Conference.

The European Union furthermore reiterates its well-known position that the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the extension of Israeli law, jurisdiction and administration to this territory are illegal. It is our view that a solution has to be found between the parties, in accordance with international law and taking into account the legitimate concerns of both sides.

In this respect, the European Union regrets the new wording contained in operative paragraph 5 of the resolution on the Golan. The wording is not helpful, as it tries to prejudice the outcome of peace negotiations between the parties.

Mr. Dlamini (Swaziland): My delegation voted in favour of draft resolution A/50/L.24 and opted to abstain in respect of draft resolutions A/50/L.37 and A/50/L.38. This is in keeping with our old policy as far as Middle East issues are concerned.

The Kingdom of Swaziland has been standing side by side with the State of Israel for a long time. In this period, we are prepared to maintain that spirit and the principle of persuasive engagement in the Middle East. My delegation holds the view that resolutions which sound harsh and reprimanding are no longer rewarding or productive. My delegation wishes to appeal to all peace-loving States to support all the peace initiatives in the Middle East. It is our duty to herald the steps which Israel has taken to show that it is prepared to walk for miles and miles to reach the destination of peace.

Therefore, we are of the view that if we want to assist the people in the Middle East, it is our duty as the United Nations to give encouragement and exercise good offices so that peace can indeed be realized in the Middle East.

The people of Israel have recently lost a son, a father, a leader. This, again, is indicative of the fact that they have enemies both within and outside Israel because of their continuing preparedness to engage in peaceful negotiations. Recently, Prime Minister Peres assured the world that he was prepared to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor. Let us therefore do everything in our ability in this body to support his efforts. In doing so, we shall be true not only to ourselves but also to the real situation in the Middle East.

Mr. Hallak (Syrian Arab Republic) (*interpretation from Arabic*): My delegation has voted against resolution A/50/L.24, entitled "Middle East peace process" because in it there is no mention of Security Council resolution 425 (1978), or of resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), while, together those three resolutions represent the foundations upon which the peace process has been built. Furthermore, Syria can welcome such resolutions only when comprehensive and lasting peace has been achieved in the region on the basis of the implementation of the resolutions of international legality and on the basis of the land-for-peace formula.

Ms. Carayanides (Australia): Australia abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/50/L.38, entitled "The Syrian Golan". We regret that the resolution on this issue was not modified this year in order better to build on the peace process in the Middle East. In this context, we regret that the new language contained in the resolution does not sufficiently reflect the importance of Israel and Syria's redoubling their efforts to reach agreement on a lasting peace. This new language may also complicate the peace negotiations between the parties. We again urge the parties to find a solution on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

Mr. Verdier (Argentina) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Argentina abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/50/L.38.

We are convinced that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East is close at hand. In this respect, we hope that substantive progress will soon be achieved on the Syrian-Israeli track. The Argentine Republic would have preferred that the text of the resolution on the Syrian Golan not include such new elements as the reference in paragraph 5 to "the line of 4 June 1967". Had it not included this new element, Argentina could have voted in favour of draft resolution A/50/L.38, since it reflects our firm belief that Israel should withdraw from the Syrian Golan in compliance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

The President: The Observer of Palestine has asked to make a statement. I now call on him, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974 and 43/177 of 15 December 1988.

Mr. Al-Kidwa (Palestine) (*interpretation from Arabic*): We should like to convey our warm thanks to all the Member States that voted in favour of the resolution contained in document A/50/L.37 on Jerusalem. We are profoundly grateful that the General Assembly adopted it by an overwhelming majority, while only one State voted against it. Unfortunately, that State was Israel.

The resolution sends a clear message from the international community on this essential topic, Jerusalem. It recalls the basic position of the United Nations in opposition to the annexation and any demographic or legal change in the status of the occupied territories as a whole. It also conveys the importance which the international community attaches to the Jerusalem, given the capital importance of the city to the Islamic *Umma* and to Christians and Jews in the modern world. The resolution also sends a clear message to the effect that all parties must refrain from taking measures that would introduce changes on the ground which might eventually influence the negotiation process with regard to the city.

We attach exceptional importance to the position thus expressed by the international community on this question of principle, a position that is and can only be in favour of the peace process and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. We hope that all the parties will draw the necessary lessons from this and thereby take this resolution seriously into account in their work for peace in the region and throughout the world.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 44?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 24 *(continued)*

Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/50/490 and A/50/520)

Draft resolution (A/50/L.40)

Mr. Wang Xuexian (China) (*interpretation from Chinese*): Following the air disaster that has occurred in Cameroon, the Chinese delegation would like to take this opportunity to express its condolences to the Government and people of that country and to the families of the victims.

A review of the first five years of the implementation of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s shows that the economic and social situation in the continent remains very grim — indeed, that Africa is in danger of being marginalized in the world economy. Long-standing economic difficulties have aggravated unemployment, poverty and other social problems and have become a major source of political turbulence and conflict in Africa.

It is most disturbing that the chronic crisis in Africa runs counter to the general trend of accelerated integration of the global economy. References to this integration and to the deepening interdependence between States are not empty words. These factors have real implications for all regions, including Africa, and for all countries. The population of Africa almost equals that of Europe and that North America combined. Its industrious and talented people and its rich natural resources constitute vast development potential.

Once Africa's economy takes off, it will surely inject new vitality into the world economy. Conversely, an Africa without development and stability is not just unacceptable morally but will also mean a less solid foundation for world prosperity and peace.

It is undeniable that the development of Africa depends, first of all, on the efforts and struggle of the

African people themselves. Indeed, many African countries have made tremendous efforts, and have achieved some successes, in the areas of economic reform and modernization, agricultural development and the development of human resources. However, factors of history and constraints imposed by the external economic environment — in particular, reduced official development assistance, the heavy debt burden, worsening terms of trade and increased barriers hindering access to markets in the developed countries — have prevented any fundamental improvement in their economic situation.

The world needs Africa. The international community must pay attention to the development of Africa and take practical measures to help it to overcome its difficulties so that it can embark on the road to revitalization.

Mr. Berrocal Soto (Costa Rica), Vice-President, took the Chair.

To achieve this objective, the international community — the developed countries in particular — must first fulfil the commitments undertaken in the New Agenda and in other relevant international agreements on the development of Africa. In this connection, there are two tendencies which, in our view, deserve attention. On one hand, some developed countries are dragging their feet when it comes to fulfilling their obligations, even as they profess concern about Africa. On the other hand, while their assistance to Africa is decreasing, the conditions that they attach to that assistance are becoming increasingly harsh. These tendencies should be reversed immediately.

The Chinese delegation welcomes the Secretary-General's report on financial issues relating to Africa. The analysis of the importance of financial development and the suggestions that the report contains may serve as a point of reference for the African countries concerned. In this connection, I should like, in the light of China's own experience, to emphasize several points.

First, it is necessary that the African countries take appropriate measures to increase domestic savings and investment and to improve the efficiency of financial intermediation. However, in the case of most developing countries in Africa, slow economic growth and low income are major reasons for inadequate savings and investment. Launching economic growth in Africa should therefore be the primary objective of the economic policy of African countries, as well as of the international community's assistance to Africa. At the same time, an appropriate infusion of foreign capital, as a supplement to domestic capital, is essential to realization of this objective.

Secondly, official development assistance remains the main source of external funds for African countries, as for other low-income developing countries. A disturbing fact is that both the International Development Association and the African Development Fund (ADF), which play a pivotal role in the transfer of favourable resources to the African countries on favourable terms, face tremendous difficulties in mobilizing resources. We call on the developed countries to be mindful of their long-term interests and to demonstrate political will by providing increased resources for these two institutions and contributing to the diversification facility under the ADF, as the New Agenda calls upon them to do.

Thirdly, it is unlikely that it will be possible to adopt a unified model for financial development, to be applied in all countries. The substance, extent and speed of reform measures must be determined in the light of the level of economic development and the cultural traditions of each country. The opening of financial markets to foreign countries should therefore depend on individual countries' capacity to absorb and manage foreign funds. Economic growth and improvement in people's living standards are the most important yardstick of the success of these measures.

Fourthly, direct foreign investment should play a greater role in the economic development of African countries, since it can help to expand productive capacity and promote the transfer of advanced technology and managerial expertise without increasing foreign debt. In recent years, many African countries have adopted policies to attract foreign investment, but the response so far has been modest.

If this situation is to be changed, the African countries must continue the structural adjustments that are necessary for the creation of more favourable conditions for foreign investment. Obviously, the developed countries, as the major exporters of capital, also have a role to play in this regard. They can promote private investment in Africa by improving the external economic environment of the African countries. They can provide official development assistance to enable those countries to improve their infrastructure, and they can give the private sector investment guarantees and preferential taxation terms.

China will continue its unswerving support for the African countries in their efforts to achieve economic development and nation-building and will make a greater contribution to those efforts when its own economy improves.

The Chinese Government will adopt measures to expand economic cooperation with the African countries and to improve the economic returns and social benefits of its assistance projects. We plan to focus our assistance on the areas of greatest need, particularly small- and medium-sized manufacturing and social-welfare projects. We will actively support and promote joint ventures and play a greater role in Africa-China economic cooperation and joint-venture trade. We intend to mobilize and make use of all possible resources through Government interest subsidies and preferential bank loans and to expand further and diversify areas of cooperation through labour contracts and services. We plan to develop China-Africa trade vigorously, as well as to cooperate in the fields of education, health and science and technology.

We are convinced that the difficulties Africa is experiencing are temporary and that Africa will develop. As long as the international community and all African countries make concerted efforts, peace and prosperity will come to that land so richly endowed and full of vitality.

Mr. Lamptey (Ghana): I should like first to convey the condolences of my delegation to the delegation and people of Cameroon on the grievous loss they suffered today because of the air crash in Douala.

I should like to begin my statement on the subject "Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s" by saluting the Secretary-General for the extensive inputs contained in his reports in, respectively, document A/50/490, entitled "Towards advancing financial intermediation in Africa", and document A/50/520, on the implementation of resolution 49/142, relating to the diversification of Africa's commodities. I would also like to commend the work of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development as well as the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the debate during the high-level segment of the Council at its substantive 1995 session.

As clearly stated in the report in document A/50/490, financial systems in Africa are unsophisticated, narrow and shallow, due mainly to general underdevelopment, inappropriate macroeconomic policies and pervasive Government intervention in credit allocation. The foregoing factors, which have been in place for years, coupled with falling export earnings, high inflation and high annual population growth rates over the years, have led to general economic decline in most African countries.

Confronted with a difficult socio-economic situation, many African countries, including Ghana, undertook stabilization and structural-adjustment programmes. In 1983 Ghana began its structural adjustment programme, which led to the pursuit of several reform programmes aimed at arresting economic decline and leading to economic growth and development. As members are aware, Ghana has faithfully pursued these policies, with the support of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Allow me briefly to share with the Assembly the main policies Ghana has pursued as part of its economic-reform programme with the specific aim of advancing financial intermediation.

Ghana has reduced the direct intervention of the Government in the economy and increased reliance on the market by decontrolling interest rates as a means of raising the rates on savings deposits and loans, reducing subsidies aimed at the promotion of specific sectors or enterprises, privatizing banks and reducing restrictions on financial activities, developing the domestic capital market and easing restrictions on foreign investments in the domestic banking system and capital market.

Currently, Ghana's financial system is built around a number of banks and non-bank financial institutions. In a bid to improve financial intermediation, the non-bank financial institutions have joined forces with the banking institutions to establish a discount house, while a stock exchange has also been established to provide a vital link between the Government and companies with capital needs and the investing public.

Specifically, these reforms have led to the restoration of monetary and fiscal discipline, to an increase in private savings and investment, to a divesting of Government interest in State-owned enterprises and minimal Government intervention, to market- determined interest rates, to a liberalization of foreign-exchange dealings and to the attraction of new equity resources.

It is pertinent to indicate that the financial reforms, as the report before us notes, have so far focused almost

exclusively on the formal financial sector and have neglected the informal sector with quite a vast savings potential. As the report points out, the informal financial system in Africa plays an important role through the financing, among others, of modest investment expenditures and through the generation and distribution of resources, particularly in the rural areas.

In view of Africa's large rural sector and of the importance of small-scale production activities in African economies, some components of the informal financial sector are still needed. My delegation therefore believes that efforts to advance financial intermediation in Africa should, *inter alia*, aim at strengthening the specialized functions of the informal financial sector and at developing its linkages with the formal sector with a view to integrating the two sectors.

It is also clear that poor countries cannot generate all the savings they require to ensure full investment in the various sectors of their economies. This means that advancing financial intermediation in these countries does not depend only on internal economic reform and socio-economic policy. It also depends on the ability of private and public investors in these countries to tap international financial resources, and on the flow of official resources for development.

Although the reform measures we have undertaken have led to some level of macroeconomic stability, these measures have also imposed and continue to impose considerable hardships on our populations. But they have been undertaken in good faith and in the belief that our efforts would be complemented by development assistance from the more developed countries. Unfortunately, even after the adoption of these reform programmes, it is becoming more and more difficult to obtain financial resources from the international community on concessional terms to sustain our domestic resource mobilization and investment.

We believe that years of difficult financial reforms should warrant increased investment flows to sustain the domestic efforts of our poor countries. Interest and dividends paid by us should generally come back to us in the form of new credits and investments. Current favourable conditions for sustained economic growth as a result of earlier reform programmes should, further, lead to increased investment.

It is in this regard that we call on the industrialized countries to endeavour to implement the United Nations target for development assistance of 0.7 per cent of gross national product to assist poor countries in their development efforts. We wish to commend particularly Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden for exceeding the United Nations aid target. We urge other industrialized countries to follow this noble example, and call on the international financial institutions to complement the efforts of developing countries by providing funds on concessional terms to help advance financial intermediation in Africa.

From the report contained in document A/50/520, it is clear that in an earlier report — document A/48/335, annex, and addenda — the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations recommended the establishment of a diversification facility to finance the preparatory phase of diversification projects and programmes in Africa. It is regrettable, however, that one year after the adoption of resolution 49/142 the diversification facility has yet to start its operation.

In view of the urgent need for African countries to diversify their economies, particularly with respect to their primary commodities, it is important for States participants in the African Development Fund existing within the African Development Bank to urgently make an initial adequate special contribution to finance the preparatory phase of commodity diversification projects and programmes in African countries.

The summary of the work of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development indicates that Africa is the only region of the world to have suffered from a continuous economic downslide since 1980. Today, 33 of the world's 48 least developed countries are in Africa. These are the same countries that are faced with a crippling debt burden, ever-worsening terms of trade, restrictions on access to technologies critical to development, and an inadequate allocation of resources from international financial institutions, among other factors.

Under these circumstances, developing countries are caught in a vicious circle of steady economic decline leading to a deteriorating security situation, which then compels Governments to divert scarce resources and energies from economic development to the maintenance of security. For African countries to get out of this circle, the international community has a responsibility to supplement the efforts of developing countries in implementing all measures that will ensure the alleviation of social and economic injustices and the reduction of

poverty, so that economic progress and lasting peace can lead to sustained development.

Finally, as stated earlier, we commend the summary of the debate at the high-level segment of the 1995 deliberations of the Economic and Social Council, which focused on the development of Africa, including the implementation of United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and reiterate our strong conviction that the serious economic crisis facing Africa requires a concerted effort built around a strong commitment to strengthen international action to implement the New Agenda. Africa is doing its part, and its efforts need to be reinforced to ensure the successful implementation of the New Agenda.

Mr. Gambari (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation would like first of all to express its deep condolences to the Government and the people of our neighbour, the Republic of Cameroon, as well as to the affected families, with regard to the unfortunate incident relating to the aeroplane crash that occurred yesterday in that country.

My delegation supports the statement made on this item by the representative of the Philippines on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Nigerian delegation also wishes to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Ethiopia as representative of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity.

It will be recalled that the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (UNPAAERD) set the tone for a fruitful dialogue between Africa and the rest of the international community on possible approaches to tackling Africa's socio-economic and development problems. Although the international community accepted the principle of shared responsibility and full partnership with the African countries, the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development failed to achieve its goals as a result of the unwillingness of the international community to live up fully to its promises. The failure of UNPAAERD, however, led to the General Assembly's adoption of the programme of the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) in General Assembly resolution 46/151.

Also at its forty-ninth session, and under the programme of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/142, in which it recognized the urgent need to respond to the specific problem of the African countries in their effort to diversify their economies in order to enable them to reduce their dependency on a few primary commodities. Regrettably, Africa's appeal to the international community, in particular the donor countries that are participants in the African Development Bank (AfDB), to establish a special facility for the diversification of commodities, has not yielded material results.

While we appreciate the international community's concern over Africa's socio-economic predicament, as was demonstrated at this year's high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council held in Geneva, there is need for greater resolve and commitment from the international community to address the development problems of Africa.

Almost five years since the adoption of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the overall economic situation in Africa remains critical, and, therefore, as we approach the mid-term review of UN-NADAF in 1996, the commitment of the international community must find concrete expression.

A recent survey of economic and social conditions in the African continent indicate that after losing the development momentum achieved in the 1980s, and in spite of the vigorous application of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs), most African countries, including my own, have continued to experience socio-economic hardships. As reflected in the 1995 International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook, for the period 1990-94, Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate declined to 1.6 per cent, as compared with the 2.6 per cent target set in the period from 1975-1989, which is a far cry from the 6 per cent target set in the programme of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. Serious problems associated with underdevelopment, such as poverty, hunger and disease, continue to plague most of Africa. Therefore, the alleviation and eventual eradication of absolute poverty must remain a primary challenge to Africa.

The issue of external-debt burden is closely tied to the issues of sustainable growth and development and poverty eradication. Africa's low commodity prices, accompanied by a crushing external-debt overhang, are some of the factors responsible for the continent's poor economic performance. Any meaningful attempt to

address the issue of sustainable growth and development, as well as that of poverty alleviation, must embrace measures to resolve on a once-and-for-all basis and, indeed, cancel in concrete terms the external debts of the African countries.

Even as we acknowledge that the conclusion of the agreements of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations is an important landmark in international cooperation for the promotion of free trade among the countries and regions of the world, it is feared that the new world-trade arrangement will not benefit the African continent in the foreseeable future.

This is an additional reason why we in Africa need to diversify our economies. The implementation, therefore, of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa should, as a matter of priority, take account in both the short term and the long term of a strategic plan for the diversification of Africa's commodities.

Nigeria, like other developing countries, believes that it is the primary responsibility of national Governments to develop strategies towards improving socio-economic growth, thus enhancing the living conditions of the people. None the less, we believe that the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s needs the urgent support of the international community to enable the African countries to build their respective national capacities.

As the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s illustrates, Africa needs the immediate and concrete commitment of the international community in the form of increased financial resources. We also believe that the involvement of the United Nations system, as well as the collaboration and cooperation of the multilateral financial institutions, will assist us in meeting the challenges of African development.

The Nigerian delegation looks forward to an in-depth assessment of the mid-term review scheduled for next year on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

Mr. Cissé (Senegal) *(interpretation from French)*: My delegation would like, first of all, to express its most heartfelt condolences to the delegation of Cameroon following the tragic aircraft accident that occurred this morning at Douala.

The consideration of item 24 of our agenda gives us the opportunity to resume and advance the important political dialogue we had last July in the Economic and Social Council, which devoted the high-level discussion of its 1995 substantive session to the question of Africa's development, including the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

It is not our intention to reopen the discussion on the critical economic situation of our continent or to undertake a new diagnosis of the ills hindering the growth of African economies. For more than three decades we have devoted so much time and thought to this exercise that there is no longer any need for us to dwell on it. Many plans and programmes of action have been formulated within and outside this building with a view to reversing the trend towards continuing decline in African economies. Unfortunately, we must recognize that on the eve of the mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa, to take place in 1996, the overall situation is far from bright.

During these past three decades, the gap between rich and poor has continued to widen, and very few countries — particularly few in Sub-Saharan Africa — have been able to benefit from the positive effects of the renewed economic expansion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

In his foreword to the world Human Development Report, Mr. James Gustave Speth, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), quite rightly states:

> "History is likely to judge the progress in the twenty-first century by one major yardstick: is there a growing equality of opportunity between people and among nations?"

As regards Africa, the steady deterioration of economic and social conditions can only contribute to confirming the pessimistic views regarding a continent that has been marginalized and left to its own devices to deal with the many political, economic, social and ecological crises besetting it.

It is hard not to be pessimistic when we know that we have not attained any of the objectives we set ourselves when, at the beginning of this decade, we

adopted the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), which should have enabled the African countries to attain a real growth rate of 6 per cent by the year 2000.

Last year, after prolonged and bitter negotiations, we reached a consensus that led to the adoption of resolution 49/142, implementing one of the recommendations of UN-NADAF relating to the creation of an African commodity diversification fund.

In his report (A/50/520) dated 11 October 1995 on the implementation of resolution 49/142, the Secretary-General clearly stated that one year after the adoption of that resolution, the diversification fund had not yet begun to function.

There is no need to dwell on the reasons for that delay. It is a lost opportunity that can be added to a long list of unmet commitments, leading us to ask why international cooperation for development now finds itself in a generalized state of crisis.

This crisis is fed by the prevalent thinking that it would be enough for the poor countries to adjust their policies and open up to the world market in order to solve, *ipso facto*, their problems.

And yet, in the dynamics of the globalization and liberalization of national economies characteristic of the post-cold-war period, most African countries have undertaken macroeconomic and sectoral reforms by assigning increased importance to the development of human resources, the building of national capacities and the integration of population and environmental questions within development strategies.

Despite the prevailing instability in several regions of Africa, most of our countries are pursuing their efforts to consolidate democracy and set up systems of government that would assure the genuine participation of the people and would invest them with responsibility at all levels of society.

These reforms, sometimes undertaken at the cost of heavy sacrifices, have not, generally speaking, produced the expected results. The difficulties besetting African countries are still present: the crushing burden of external debt, the steady deterioration of the terms of trade, the scant inflow of resources and direct foreign investment and the continued degradation of the environment because of the growing, interrelated pressures of the population and poverty.

In the light of the new realities of today's world, we think that only a new concept of solidarity will make it possible to avoid, or at least mitigate, the harmful consequences for the international community as a whole of the poverty and exclusion occasioned by the persistent scourges afflicting Africa.

Therefore, on the basis of a collective commitment, we must draw up a new social compact, a new general agreement of solidarity for the future of mankind, as we were asked to do two years ago from this very rostrum by His Excellency, Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal.

In our view, it is both imperative and urgent, in seeking a consensus for An Agenda for Development, to define a new framework for international cooperation that would move away from the beaten track. This new framework of solidarity would break with the almost exclusive, dependence on financial inflows from abroad by better exploiting the potential of trade, private investment and access to technology and reforming international financial institutions so as to better integrate them with other parts of the United Nations system and make them better suited to take care of the needs of poor countries in economic and social development.

Recognizing the need for a concerted effort to maximize United Nations support for the development of Africa, the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, launched a special initiative for Africa with the clearly stated goal of giving a boost to international cooperation.

We wish to reiterate our support for this specific, action-oriented approach focused on Africa's essential priorities. This is also the right occasion for us to reiterate our thanks to the Government of Japan for its initiatives leading to the adoption of the Bandung framework document on Asia-Africa cooperation and its efforts to revitalize international cooperation, especially between developing countries.

Thus, the impetus provided by the international Conference on African Development held in Tokyo is not flagging. The more recent symposium on peace, development and conflicts in Africa, also held in Tokyo, from 11 to 12 October 1995, was very successful.

The various declarations and programmes of action of the international conferences held in Rio de Janeiro, Vienna, Cairo, Copenhagen and, more recently, in Beijing, all recognized the need for specific action to address the critical situation of Africa.

It is now time to take action to create national environments, and, through our concerted actions in the United Nations, an international environment favourable to the sustainable human development to which African peoples aspire.

We hope that the adoption of the draft resolution before us will contribute to the attainment of that objective.

Mr. Jallow (Gambia): I would like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's heartfelt sympathy to the delegation of Cameroon for the recent air catastrophe that took place in Douala.

My delegation would like to support the adoption by consensus of draft resolution A/50/L.40, on the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, and in so doing would like to thank the Secretary-General for his very useful reports (A/50/490, A/50/520) on the subject.

It is significant to note that one of the five overall priorities of the United Nations is the economic recovery and development of Africa. This commitment, among other equally important ones, necessitated the recent holding of a series of high-level meetings on Africa's development. The high-level segment of the 1995 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council on this subject proved not only a very useful exercise but also an opportunity for the international community to redouble its efforts and resources to achieve, in the foreseeable future, the development of Africa.

The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), adopted by this body on 18 December 1991, provided a sound basis for concrete and realistic programme planning in identifying Africa's development goals and their effective implementation in order to achieve, within a given time-frame, the sustained development of Africa.

In this connection, therefore, UN-NADAF stands out as the latest in a series of important, globally accepted United Nations documents indicating positive strategies for the development of Africa. Yet so far, records have shown that the New Agenda, which is approaching its mid-term review in 1996, has not been able to generate adequate driving force and commitment to promote effectively the accelerated transformation, integration, diversification and meaningful growth of Africa in the 1990s.

One of the main factors militating against the development of Africa is its persistent external debt burden and its attendant debt-servicing obligations, which account for a net outflow of cash equivalent, in many cases, to much more than the sum total of a country's development budget. At the beginning of this year, Africa's debt stock was equivalent to 225 per cent of exports and 83 per cent of gross domestic product. Sub-Saharan Africa's debt stock rose from $200 billion in 1993 to $211 billion in 1994. To compound the debt problem, it is noted that real per capita aid receipts have been declining. Official development assistance fell from $25.2 billion in 1991 to $19.7 billion in 1992.

In the area of declining foreign direct investment, it is also indicated that sub-Saharan Africa's share has been reduced to half its 1991 level. The efforts and initiatives of Africa's development partners to seek common means to reduce Africa's debt burden and enhance its sustained economic growth, though appreciated, have not been sufficient, because about 28 African countries continue to have debt levels of over 200 per cent of export earnings and therefore are considered unsustainable in terms of development.

It is for these reasons that my delegations welcomes the continuing negotiations on Africa's debt and the growing debt-relief initiatives, which, it is hoped, will eliminate all types of debts.

Another factor that continues to impede Africa's development is poverty and its impact on the sustainable development of African States. According to World Bank reports, about 1.1 billion people in developing countries have been in this category since 1991. The 1994 economic report produced by the Economic Commission for Africa confirms the continued deterioration in social and human conditions and the escalating absolute and relative poverty in Africa, and pointed out that "about 220 million Africans now live in absolute poverty". This situation will continued unchecked unless we implement fully the recommendations of the United Nations World Summit for Social Development and its predecessors — that is, the earlier conferences. This urgent need is based on the fact that 12 per cent of the world's population lives in Africa, and Africa's population today has been

growing very fast, outstripping the existing social infrastructures.

The economic development of Africa is contingent on expanded favourable tariff conditions and access to world trade, in particular the markets of developed countries. The successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round agreements has so far failed to provide the much-needed impetus to Africa's trade and economic growth. Terms of trade losses for Africa continue to grow and are estimated at $50 billion. Africa has been developing plans and programmes intended to improve supply capabilities, strengthen regional and subregional markets, and improve investment conditions. These restructuring efforts by Africa should be supported and the requisite assistance provided by the international community.

The need for this assistance is reinforced by Africa's relevance to the world economy and development, as evidenced by the fact that today Africa accounts for 70 per cent of the world's production of cobalt, 6 per cent of its diamonds, 44 per cent of its chromium, 32 per cent of its magnesium, 32 per cent of its gold, 24 per cent of its phosphate and 10 per cent of its petroleum.

It would be of great benefit to Africa if the international community were to assist in consolidating the gains of economic recovery and political transition or the democratization process through sustainable development. In this connection, my delegation recognizes the importance and benefits to Africa of technical cooperation among developing countries, particularly South-South cooperation and the Bandung Asia-Africa cooperation framework, and the outcome of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development — the Tokyo Declaration.

We should not lose sight of the efforts and activities by Africa to promote, enhance and achieve sustained economic growth and social development by addressing existing structural weaknesses, particularly building and expanding inadequate human, institutional and infrastructural capacities. These activities are best explained by the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, the Cairo Agenda for Action, and the Organization of African Unity's Council of Ministers resolution CM/RES/596 of 23 June 1995 on the implementation of UN-NADAF. Further, at the national level, development planning embraces strategies and programmes relevant to sustainable development, including financial intermediation and discipline. The Gambia has embarked on structural reforms and macroeconomic policies in pursuit of the overall sustained development of the country.

My delegation welcomes the establishment of an ad hoc committee to start working in earnest on the 1996 mid-term review of the implementation of UN-NADAF. This ad hoc committee will no doubt take into consideration relevant debates, decisions and papers at United Nations global and regional levels pertaining to the implementation of UN-NADAF. It should be realized that the New Agenda is not only a blueprint of development strategies, but also a financial statement on costs and contributions to achieve the goal of the sustainable development of Africa no later than the end of this century.

The Economic Commission for Africa

> "estimated the financial resources required to achieve the growth target of the United Nations New Agenda, excluding South Africa, over the period 1993-2005 to be, in gross terms, US$ 61 billion in 1993, increasing steadily to US$ 124 billion in 2005. These figures are in 1990 dollars. This indicates a real annual growth rate of about 5.6 per cent".

Similarly, the World Bank's proposed recovery programme for 36 sub-Saharan countries to the year 2000 will be between $28 billion and $29 billion in 1988 dollar figures, with the annual rate of growth of output rising to 5 per cent by the year 2000.

The United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s remains an important development strategy for the development of Africa. Its successful implementation will depend not only on political recognition and commitment but even more on the provision of the requisite resources. This is a collective responsibility which the international community must seek to fully implement.

Mr. Maruyama (Japan): My delegation associates itself with previous speakers in expressing its deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Cameroon on the tragic loss of many lives caused by the unfortunate air accident.

Africa is endowed with abundant natural resources, and for many African countries commodities are by far the most important source of income. One of the central elements of any effort to promote development in that

continent is therefore the diversification of its commodities, which would help increase productive capacity, enhance export earnings in the new multilateral trade system, and foster small and medium-scale enterprises, which in turn would create productive employment opportunities.

In 1990, the Group of Experts on African Commodity Problems, established by the Secretary-General in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/27, produced a report that presents a comprehensive strategy for dealing with African commodity problems. Although some may regard it as out of date, my delegation believes it continues to be valid. The report proposes that, in the first instance, African countries must commit themselves firmly to implementing a wide range of policies to promote diversification. In order to create the macroeconomic framework necessary for promoting diversification, structural-adjustment programmes should be implemented. However, the establishment of a sound macroeconomic framework is not in itself sufficient to pursue diversification, and the report proposes a wide variety of measures, such as improvements in transport and storage facilities, enhancement of rural education, greater emphasis on agricultural education in universities, expansion of knowledge of overseas markets, establishment of adequate banking and credit facilities, greater involvement of the private sector, and encouragement of direct foreign investment and joint ventures. My delegation basically concurs with such a comprehensive strategy and would like to underline the particular importance of the private sector in generating economic growth. In order for Africa to seize the opportunity provided by the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, it needs to enhance competitiveness of the private sector in international markets.

While the self-help efforts of African countries should be at the core of any strategy for addressing commodity problems, the international community needs to give full support to their efforts. For its part, Japan is committed to assisting the countries of Africa. In Japan's official development assistance to Africa, priority is attached to human resource development and capacity-building, which it believes would contribute significantly to the process of commodity diversification. As part of its support to Africa, Japan hosted the Tokyo International Conference on African Development in October 1993; this was followed up by the Asia-Africa Forum entitled "Sharing of Experience", held in December 1994, and the Eastern-Southern Africa Regional Workshop, held in July 1995. In this connection, we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the United Nations Secretariat Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries, to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to the Global Coalition for Africa, and to Indonesia and Zimbabwe for cooperating with Japan. On the initiative of African countries, the Eastern-Southern Africa Regional Workshop decided to establish an experts group, which is scheduled to meet in December 1995 in Seychelles; Japan will offer financial support toward the cost of that meeting. Another workshop, for Central and Western African countries, is planned for next year. We hope that these meetings will help promote capacity-building and human resource development in Africa. Since 1994, under its Africa Youth Invitation Programme, Japan has invited and trained about 250 young Africans who will be the engine of future nation-building efforts. With regard to private sector development, mobilization of domestic resources and other macroeconomic issues, Japan has hosted, in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, Seminars on Strategies for African Development. The first meeting was in March 1994 and the second in February 1995, and a third meeting is planned for next spring. In November 1994, Japan hosted the Symposium on Education in Africa, which examined past and present efforts in human resource development in Africa, and discussed Africa's self-help efforts and the state of international support for those efforts. These are just a few examples of Japan's cooperation with human resource development and capacity-building in Africa.

My delegation would now like to comment briefly on the Secretary-General's report in document A/50/520, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 49/142.

First, the report should have referred to the discussions under way at the Common Fund for Commodities, to which Japan is the largest contributor. Since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 49/142, the Governing Body of the Common Fund has been engaged in discussions on the best way of utilizing profits from its first account to support commodity projects in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. While it has not yet reached concrete conclusions, we hope that the Secretariat will follow developments at the Common Fund and report them to the General Assembly.

Second, my delegation is concerned that in the report there is scant mention of action taken by African countries themselves.

There is no information concerning steps taken by African countries to promote diversification, including aspects related to the preparatory phase of commodity-diversification projects. There is no information on the efforts of the African countries to establish the national diversification councils referred to in paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 49/142. There is no information concerning the actual demand by African countries for assistance in the preparatory phase of commodity-diversification projects. Without such information, it is not possible to consider providing any additional assistance for diversification efforts. Clearly, the information to which I have just referred needs to be supplied to Member States in order to facilitate deliberations on this item.

Thirdly, with respect to the consideration of a special contribution to the African Development Fund, to which Japan is the largest contributor, for financing the preparatory phase of commodity-diversification projects, I would like to point out that the Secretary-General's report contains no information on what the Bank is doing presently to address the issue of diversification. Such information would have facilitated deliberations on this item in the General Assembly.

My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report concerning financial intermediation in Africa, which is contained in document A/50/490. This report was prepared taking into special account the statement issued at the conclusion of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development that

> "further improvements in financial systems and practices are needed to stimulate domestic savings investment and to prevent and reverse capital flight". (*A/50/490, para. 1*)

The mobilization of domestic resources is a key to African development. As noted in the report, mobilization in the informal sector in particular has the potential to produce vast savings. Consideration of this issue is continuing in the follow-up meetings to the Tokyo Conference, and we hope that, along with the Secretary-General's report, the conclusions reached there will contribute to promoting financial intermediation in Africa.

The area of financial intermediation requires specialized capacity-building, and Japan is of the view that organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund should play major roles in providing assistance to African countries. The recommendations presented in this report should be considered seriously by the United Nations system, African countries, and the international community in taking concrete action in this area.

With its abundant natural resources, Africa has tremendous potential for development. However, whether or not this potential is fully realized depends on how well those resources are managed. If they are to be managed effectively, in Japan's view, human-resource development and capacity-building must be at the core of African development efforts.

Mr. Karukubiro Kamunanwire (Uganda): When this Assembly adopted the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) in 1986, there was much enthusiasm and many expectations that at last a solid international partnership had been forged for the most economically impaired continent. However, by the time of UNPAAERD's final review and appraisal in 1990, little progress had been achieved. Instead, Africa's economic crisis and decline had deepened.

Once again, the international community recommitted itself to solidarity and full partnership with Africa, and in 1991 a successor arrangement, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), was adopted. Lamentably, four years after its adoption, this programme of action also remains largely unimplemented.

The persistence of the precarious socio-economic situation on the African continent is due to the unique circumstances we find ourselves in. Those circumstances are still as valid as they were in 1986 and 1991. They include the persistence of low commodity prices, the heavy debt burden, crisis and disaster situations and the paucity of resources for development. These endemic problems have been complicated by the twin processes of globalization and liberalization, which are unlikely to contribute to socio-economic progress in Africa in the short- to medium-term without concerted action in Africa and by the international community.

Of course, Africa bears the primary responsibility for its development, and in this regard a lot of efforts are being made. Early this year, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Council of Ministers devoted a special session to Africa's socio-economic situation and adopted the document "Relaunching Africa's economic and social

development: the Cairo Agenda for Action". Unlike what has been done at any other time, the Cairo Agenda for Action devotes significant attention to what African countries should do for themselves. Indeed, many African countries are today implementing political and economic reforms. In most cases, this has been at great social and political cost. These complex and delicate issues have to be addressed fully and tangibly in the context of UN-NADAF.

It is clear that the implementation of UN-NADAF has been a disappointment. Yet it remains a programme of considerable importance to which the international community must recommit itself in the context of the mid-term review next year. We call for definite and concrete action in accordance with the commitments contained in UN-NADAF itself and the various resolutions adopted by this Assembly and the programmes of action and commitments coming out of the various recent conferences.

In the context of the mid-term review, we urge the Secretary-General to provide an assessment of the extent of the system-wide response to the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the shortfall in expectations under that programme, as well as information on how he envisages proceeding. This obviously requires wide consultations in which national Governments, the OAU and other organizations of the United Nations system should be actively involved. We also urge him to make specific recommendations on strengthening the appropriate institutional framework for the coordination and efficient mobilization of resources and activities necessary for the effective implementation of UN-NADAF in support of Africa's own efforts.

There are two lessons to learn from what we have said. The first relates to Africa's primary responsibility for its development, coupled with the complementary efforts of the international community. We should resolutely address the endogenous impediments to growth and development, which include political instability, ineffective and inefficient utilization of both human and material resources, inappropriate priority-setting, ill-conceived policy orientation and ill-designed and impractical implementation mechanisms. Without solving these problems, self-sustaining growth and development will not be forthcoming.

Secondly, the launching of one initiative after another is not helping the cause of African development. We should agree on one reference point on which subsequent improvements can be made. We believe that the mid-term review next year will provide the opportunity to improve, consolidate and recommit ourselves to implementing the New Agenda. Obviously, it was not the best-crafted document and this justifies the actions we have just proposed.

Lastly, my delegation would be remiss if it did not thank Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, Permanent Representative of Pakistan and President of the Economic and Social Council, for his fundamental, invaluable contribution to discussions of this subject at the high-level segment of the Council. His accurate and faithful summary of those proceedings has made it possible for my delegation not to go into greater detail. In the same vein, we thank the Secretary-General for the useful reports that guided the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council. The participation of the other Members of the United Nations family and all delegations no doubt enriched our discussions.

Mr. Abdellah (Tunisia) (*interpretation from French*): We were very distressed to hear the sad news of the death of many passengers on a plane belonging to the Cameroon airline that crashed this morning at the Douala airport. On this painful occasion, we offer our sincere condolences to the Ambassador of Cameroon and the families of the deceased, along with our wholehearted brotherly sympathy.

The delegation of Tunisia wishes to share with the Assembly some thoughts on the agenda item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s".

In this regard, I am pleased at the outset to welcome the international community's interest in the development and growth of Africa. Thus, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s is a timely manifestation of the concern of the United Nations for the continent's economic emancipation. This programme represents the Organization's commitment, reaffirmed at the most recent session of the Economic and Social Council, in July 1995, to support African development efforts. For the African States as a whole, it also represents an act of faith and a sign of hope to inspire them in their struggle for development, despite the vicissitudes of the international situation and the difficulties of the moment. This support is all the more significant given the fact that the economic and social crisis experienced by Africa in the 1980s and prolonged throughout the past decade has yet to abate in vast regions of the continent.

Compounded by protracted drought, this situation could only lead to the social turmoil that has threatened the precarious stability of countries which, in many cases, were already extremely shaky. And it is in this adverse context that the African countries have had to adopt policies aimed at reversing the negative trend and restoring order to their disrupted economies.

To that end, the stabilization and structural adjustment programmes sponsored by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were implemented by almost all of our countries. Thus, according to the Secretary-General's report:

> "Out of 34 Sub-Saharan African countries surveyed in 1994, more than half had made progress in implementing financial reforms along these lines". (*A/50/490, para. 26*)

According to the same report, the reform and structural adjustment programmes undertaken by the African countries enhanced the efficiency of their financial systems and improved economic performance in growth, savings and inflation reduction. We must recognize, however, that the situation remains precarious and that the efforts made are often slow to yield the desired results.

According to data contained in various United Nations documents, Africa is still in a difficult situation and has seen some reversals. Some countries of the continent that belonged to the middle-level income category at the beginning of the decade now belong to the group of least developed countries. The same observation can be made about the continent's foreign trade. Africa's share of world exports has steadily declined, dropping from 4 per cent in the 1970s to about 1 per cent today. At the same time, revenue from official development assistance has lost real value since 1990. Africa was also bypassed by the recent wave of private investment in the developing countries.

Aware that economic cooperation and integration are the most viable means of achieving balanced economic growth and thereby ensuring sustainable development in Africa, our countries have worked to that end throughout this decade, both at the subregional level and on the continental scale.

Regional groupings — which are significant elements with potential positive effects on development prospects in general and on industrialization, service development and trade expansion in particular — now cover every subregion of the continent. Africa's determination to take the lead and mobilize its efforts on behalf of comprehensive development was reaffirmed not long ago by its Heads of State at their most recent summit meeting.

Even so, we are compelled to note that the partnership desired by Africa has been slow in taking concrete form. In fact, direct foreign investment in Africa is very weak and is not growing. Financial flows amounted to a mere $2 billion for all of Africa in 1992, less than 2 per cent of all direct foreign investment in developing countries. For foreign investors, Africa's main interest remains its natural resources. Thus, Africa is the only region of the world where development through public investment is larger than that through private investment.

Dependence on commodities, low per capita income and the fragility or even absence of linkages between industries have all been negative elements hampering Africa's development and growth. Hence the magnitude of the problem and the complexity of the obstacles that the continent must overcome if it is to build the foundations of its infrastructure, since socio-economic development is clearly an integrated process achieved through enormous operations undertaken head-on in many sectors, including industry, agriculture, training and basic services.

The development and promotion of basic industries essential to the long-term development of the region, the promotion of small industries to create employment in member countries and the promotion of manufacturing industries have also been at the heart of the measures taken by the States of Africa, with the support of the international community and the organizations of the United Nations system.

However, we must acknowledge that the action being taken at present by the United Nations system and by the international community in general is far from adequate to deal with the problems confronting Africa. If the crisis prevailing in Africa is to be overcome, we shall have to be much more resolute and allocate much greater resources, both nationally and internationally.

Therefore, we should like to express our concern at the decrease in official development assistance. In our view, urgent steps must be taken to increase the flows of capital earmarked for African countries. These measures should be accompanied by reduction of those countries' burden of external debt. Increased mobilization of

resources should enable the countries of Africa to move on from the stage of adjustment to that of development.

The African countries should also be able to rely on international assistance to enable them to take full advantage of the possibilities open to them through implementation of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and, at the same time, minimize the negative impact that these measures may have in the short term.

Lastly, the international community is duty-bound to support Africa's efforts to diversify its economy and thus free its peoples from dependence on exports of one or two commodities whose prices fluctuate at the whim of the market. The need for diversification of the African commodities sector has been reaffirmed in all of the Secretary-General's reports on this question. Africa, which is dependent for its earnings on a small number of commodities, must diversify its production and its exports to enable the economies of the continent's States to withstand, without great damage, the impact of the fluctuations in exports and terms of trade.

It is in this context that one should approach resolution 49/142, which invites States participating in the African Development Bank's African Development Fund to pay particular attention to the diversification of African commodities and to consider urgently making an adequate contribution to finance the preparatory phase of commodity diversification projects and programmes in African countries. In this respect, Tunisia hopes that the current consultations on replenishment of the African Development Fund will be concluded successfully as soon as possible.

We should also like to express our satisfaction at the establishment of the Inter-Agency Task Force to assist the African Development Bank on questions relating to commodity diversification. The action undertaken by the United Nations system in the follow-up to the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development should also be welcomed as a first concrete step in the right direction. However, Tunisia regrets the fact that, a year after the adoption of resolution 49/142, no progress has yet been made in this regard.

We therefore appeal to the international community to ensure that the professed interest in and support for Africa's development efforts, expressed most recently at the Economic and Social Council in July 1995 at the high-level segment on Africa, are given practical form as soon as possible.

The Acting President (*interpretation from Spanish*): We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

I should like to inform delegations that action on the draft resolutions will be taken on a date to be announced.

Programme of work

The President: I should like to inform members that agenda item 46, "Assistance in mine clearance", which was originally scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday 6 December, will be considered on Thursday 14 December, in the morning, as the second item, following consideration of agenda item 105, "Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family".

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.